

May 2025

NEWSLETTER



Friends of
Christ's
Hospital

President's Message

Dear Old Blues and Friends of Christ's Hospital,

Welcome to the second issue of the newly revived FCH newsletter! We have lots to share with you — the annual Transatlantic Schools Exchange Program celebration, a report on the progress of the FCH Blue Fund students, an update on FCH finances and practical tips on how to set up a visit to Horsham.

Please take time to look at the results of our 2024 US Old Blues survey, which will help us to connect better with the US Old Blue community - a core mission of FCH.

We'll share information about opportunities for you to connect with other Old Blues in your area. Please help to make sure any US Old Blues with whom you are currently connected know about FCH and that they are aware of and receiving communications from us, to help them connect with the broader US Old Blue community.

Looking ahead, we plan to host a Founder's Day dinner in New York on Saturday, October 18th (details to follow at a later date) and we hope to welcome the new Head Teacher, Matthew Judd and Treasurer, Miriam McKay (7s, 76-83) for a visit to the US in the coming year.

Please let us know if there are topics you would like to see covered in future issues.

With warmest regards and thanks for your engagement with FCH and with Christ's Hospital.

Sally O'Brien

Sally O'Brien (Knatchbull-Hugessen, 5's, 70-77)
President, Friends of Christ's Hospital



2025 Transatlantic Schools Exchange Dinner

On April 5, 30 Old Blues, FCH Board members, friends and representatives from Gilman and Bryn Mawr schools celebrated the 19th annual exchange program between the two Baltimore schools and CH. Each year a CH boy spends time at Gilman and a CH girl at Bryn Mawr, to stay with exchange partner families and experience US culture. The American students then experience boarding life at CH.

The schools exchange has a long history. A regular attendee at the event is Ken McDonald (CH 50-51) who spent an exchange year at CH 75 years ago. Nik Feldman (MaA 09-09) who was a Gilman exchange scholar in 2009, is now an FCH Board member and hosted the memorable Founder's Day Dinner in Lexington last year.



This year's CH students were Arabella and Kamsi (pictured left with their exchange partners Michael and Kate). Arabella is studying A levels in biology, chemistry, and German. She is involved in community service, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the Medical Society. Kamsi is taking A levels in maths, further maths, physics and a one-year course in computer science. He is also in the Corps of Drums, Senior Band and Dixieland Band and in the 1st XI for football and 1st XV for rugby.

Both Arabella and Kamsi spoke to the group after dinner. Here are excerpts from their addresses...

Kamsi - "One of the most enriching aspects of this exchange has been the personal growth that comes from embracing change. It's a delightful challenge that has made each day memorable. This exchange has broadened my perspective on education, friendship, and family in ways I hadn't imagined"

Arabella - "I joined CH as a Deputy Grecian 7 months ago and find myself having new experiences every day. The atmosphere of the school produces people who want to do well academically and be the best version of themselves. Most people are interested in achieving in their chosen sports, with many playing at the county level. At Bryn Mawr, sport is played even more regularly than at CH. The varsity softball team practices after school every day for 2 hours and I have already attended 2 games, even though I have only been in Baltimore for a week. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity as it has given me a chance to learn about other cultures."



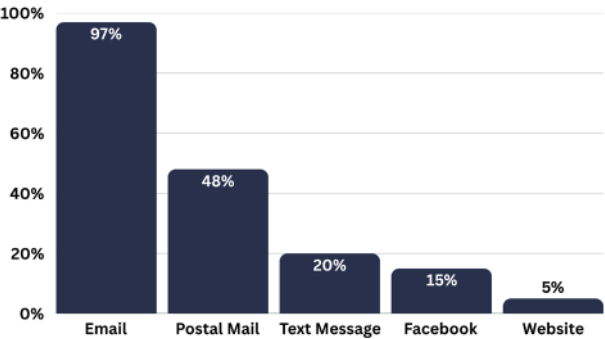
Photo: John Cottage (LHA, LaA 68-74), Oscar Schwartz (05-12), John Allen-Smith (ThA, ThB 86-93), Sally O'Brien (nee Knatchbull-Hugessen) (5s 70-77), Elliott Holingsbee (LaA, GrE 15-22), Belinda Reiser (nee Albinson) (4s, CoLA 79-86), Keith Worker (MaB, CoLA 71-78), Kamsi, Deputy Grecian (Year 12), Geoff Hunt (BaB, LaA 76-82), George Matcham (PeB 63-70).



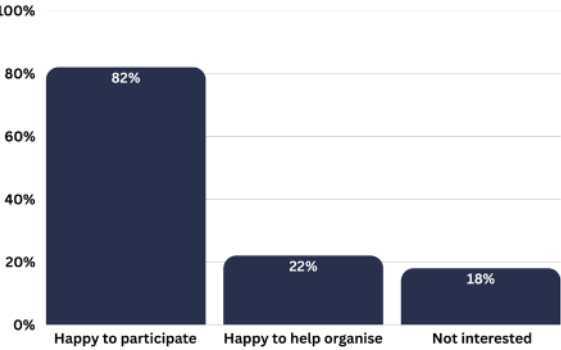
2024 FCH Survey Results

At the end of 2024 FCH, in conjunction with CH, sent a survey to 161 US Old Blues and friends of CH. Thank you to the 60 people who replied (57 Old Blues; 3 friends). The information you provided will help us ensure you receive relevant information from CH and FCH, in your preferred format, on a timely basis. The results were as follows:

What's the best way to get information to you?



Are you interested in regional get-togethers with other Old Blues in your area?



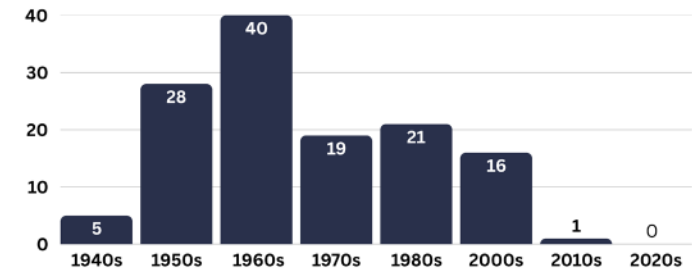
Are you happy to share your contact information between CH and FCH?



59 respondents gave CH and FCH access to their contact information.

Note - data privacy laws in the UK prevent CH and FCH from sharing your contact information unless this has been pre-authorized by you.

Leaving Decade Analysis CH leavers (by decade) - full FCH database



The analysis of the decade in which the survey responders left CH prompted an analysis of the full database – which returned very similar results. Based on these results we are particularly keen to find ways to link up with USOB's who left CH after 1999.

If you are aware of any Old Blues who are living in the US please make sure they are aware of and receiving communications from FCH and if not, prompt them to get in touch with us at www.fchusa.org/contact-us/ so we can help them connect with the US Old Blue community.

News & Upcoming Events at Christ's Hospital:

Retirement of Head Teacher Simon Reid - The end of Summer Term 2025 will see the retirement of Head Teacher Simon Reid. Simon was first a teacher and houseparent at CH for ten years (94-04), then returned in 2017 as Head Teacher. He has been instrumental in driving positive change and reinforcing CH's commitment to its charitable mission. Under his leadership CH was awarded Independent School of the Year 2024/25. We wish Simon well in his well-deserved retirement.

You can book to attend any of the events below at www.events.christs-hospital.org.uk

65+ Years on Reunion 2025 - June 4th (11:00 – 15:30). Book your place at: www.events.christs-hospital.org.uk/events/65-years-on-reunion-2025/

Beating Retreat - June 28th. Marking the end of the 2025 summer term and school year.

Start of Michaelmas Term - August 31st. All UK and current International Students return (except Second Form).

Old Blue Tours – An opportunity for Old Blues and up to three guests to visit CH during term time. You can watch Band Parade, take tea in Dining Hall, visit the CH Museum and have a site walk with access to a selection of buildings whilst accompanied by current students. Upcoming Old Blues Tour dates: June 9th; September 15th; October 13th; November 17th.



Update on the FCH-sponsored Blue Fund Presentees

There are currently two FCH-sponsored Blue Fund students at CH. Each fully supported for a 7-year education by the generosity of US Old Blues.

Ariadne, UF, is doing well academically, especially in chemistry, German, maths, physics, and theology & philosophy. She recently participated in the school's production of *Les Miserables*, is a committed member of the Community Action team and continues to focus on improving her swimming ability.

Rhys, Second Form, has made a promising start to his time at CH. He has already shown potential in geography, maths, Latin, history, and theology & philosophy. Outside academics, he has demonstrated his natural footballing ability and has taken very quickly to playing the trumpet.

21 Futures Campaign - update from Hugo Middlemas, CH Director of Development

CH has launched an urgent appeal—**21 Futures**—to protect 21 life-changing bursary places at Christ's Hospital.

Recent UK legislative changes mean CH is no longer eligible for Business Rates charitable relief and has seen a rise in employer national insurance contributions resulting in a £1million increase in annual costs. That's the equivalent of 21 full bursary places.

Every year, bursaries transform lives at CH. But now, CH risks having to reduce the number of places available to those who need them most. That's why we've launched 21 Futures—to protect these opportunities through increased support of our Blue Fund Bursaries and Donation Governorships.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities to learn more about the campaign and how you can help protect these vital bursaries for future students. **Find out more here:** <https://support.christs-hospital.org.uk/21-futures>

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FUTURES

Chairman's Corner

Now, more than ever, Friends of Christ's Hospital is focused on building the network of Old Blues in the USA. Thanks to your responses to the survey at the end of last year, we understand your interest in being engaged in Old Blue events. Whenever FCH runs an event (e.g. the Embassy reception in 2023, the Transatlantic Schools Exchange Dinner in Baltimore every April, Founder's Day Dinner in Lexington, KY, last October) we hear similar themes from attending Old Blues – how much you enjoy meeting up with other Old Blues and that you would like to do it more often if events were closer to home.

For these reasons, we are working to establish more local groups of Old Blues who live close enough to each other that they can reasonably easily get together from time-to-time on an informal basis - or to celebrate CH anniversaries, such as Founder's Day or St Matthew's Day.

In that context, we are looking to add some FCH Board members, or informal volunteers, to extend our reach into areas where we know there are concentrations of Old Blues. We are particularly interested to add Board members or informal volunteers in California (both in the Bay Area and Southern California), in the Carolinas and in New England ... but we would also welcome interest from any part of the United States.

If you are interested in understanding what would be involved, please reach out to me at gmatcham@verizon.net or to any other Board Member you may already know. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



George Matcham (PeB, 1963-1970)
Chairman, Friends of Christ's Hospital



Useful Links

FCH website – www.fchusa.org

FCH Facebook Group – www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofchristshospital

CH Old Blues Association website - www.christs-hospital.org.uk/old-blues/

CHOBA Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/CHOldBlues/

Christ's Hospital's website – www.christs-hospital.org.uk

Remembering Richard Dixon

We recently lost Richard Dixon of La Grange TX, an Old Blue who had attended CH during the war years as an Admiralty presentee, and served in the British Merchant Navy for about 20 years, before moving to Texas in the 1960s. Richard was very much engaged with FCH, gave generously every year, including a legacy to CH in his will and will be greatly missed.

You can read his full obituary on the FCH website at: www.fchusa.org/obituary-richard-dixon-mid-b-1941-48/



Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 2024 (by Keith Worker)

FCH provides Old Blues and others residing in the US a tax-efficient way to support Christ's Hospital. As a tax-exempt public charity under sections 501 (c) 3 and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code, all donations to FCH are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Income from donations in 2024 was \$142,712 (vs \$231,960 in 2023).

In 2024 there were 41 individual donors (vs 41 in 2023). These included significant donations from Anthony Furnivall, George Matcham and Trevor Tomkins.

Disbursements to Christ's Hospital in 2024 totaled \$148,122 (vs \$445,643 in 2023)

FCH's account balances on January 1, 2024 amounted to \$142,712. The closing account balances on December 31, 2024 totaled \$100,072.

Expenses were \$4,647 (vs \$5,080 in 2023). Expenses as a % of Income continued to be low (3.6%).



Keith at CH, age 17 (circa 1976)

Financial Report & Report on Giving 2024

FCH Financial Summary for 2024		
Opening Balance (1.1.24)		\$142,712
Income Received		
Donations	\$110,119	
Investment Income	\$10	
Total Income		£110,129
Disbursements		
Grants to Christ's Hospital		(\$148,122)
Administrative Expenses		
Legal & Accounting Fees	\$1,925	
Printing & Mailing	\$115	
Event Subsidies	\$529	
Insurance	\$1,033	
Banking Charges & fees	\$1,045	
Total Admin Expenses		(\$4,647)
Closing Balance (12.31.24)		\$100,072

We acknowledge with gratitude the donations that Friends of Christ's Hospital received in 2024 from Old Blues and Friends

Roland Aldridge	Geoff Hunt	Jane Phelan
Jane Armistead	Richard Johnson	Moyna Prince
(Legacy)	Katherine Kerr	David Robinson
John Bell	Robert Kinlock	Betty Rushbrook
Simon Chadwick	George Matcham	Tony Safoian
Melvyn Churchill	Kenneth McDonald	Brendan Shapiro
Raymond Clarke	Louis Mullinger	Geoffrey Summers
John Cottage	Rupert Munro	Patric Ternan
Heather Day	Sally O'Brien	Roger Thomas
Nancy Feldman	Elaine Orr	Trevor Tomkins
Anthony Furnivall	Jonathan Osborne	Joann Wood
James Guerrero	Paul Parker	Keith Worker
Michael Hartley	Theresa Perlis	Rosh Wright
Colin Hattle-Spence	Matthew Petersen	
J Bryan Hooper		

There are a variety of ways to make a tax-deductible gift to Friends of Christ's Hospital:

Check: Please send to Friends of Christ's Hospital, P.O. Box 5171, Lancaster, PA 17606, USA

Credit Card: Contact Keith Worker (FCH Treasurer) directly at kworker3@gmail.com

Gifts of Stock: Contact Keith Worker directly at kworker3@gmail.com. Stock and Mutual Fund donations can be made by transferring the shares to FCH's Wells Fargo Brokerage account. Please contact Keith for information regarding this account. The full value of the stock at the date of transfer may be tax deductible for US taxpayers. Please consult your tax advisor to learn more.

Matching Gifts: FCH can accept all tax-deductible contributions from corporate matching gift programs. Our Federal ID number is 91-2162264 and our California Corporation number is 2350816.

Pledges: We welcome multi-year pledges of support to FCH. Please contact Keith directly at kworker3@gmail.com



As required under US law, while the Board of Directors will always consider the expressed preferences of its donors when making grant decisions, the Board must retain discretion and control over the use of all contributions it receives. FCH has very low operating costs and its volunteer Board directly contributes to the organization's operating expenses. Checks written and mailed to FCH in the latter half of December, although tax-deductible to the donor, may not clear until the following year. If these amounts are substantial the grants shown on our Federal Return (Form 990) may be less than the grants actually made from the donations received.