

# Introduction from the Principal

**C**HRI**S**T'S COLLEGE, Guildford, in Surrey, seeks to provide a Christian education of the highest quality. The College mission statement is 'Learning to Serve'. We are always learning better ways to be of service to others: to serve God, each other and the world in which we live. To do this, all our relationships are grounded in the words of our ethos statement: 'At Christ's College, everyone is special, made in the image of God and needs to be treated with respect.'

The College is committed to being a beacon of educational excellence not only within Guildford but also Surrey.

As a small College we are proud that every student counts and every aspect of their education matters. Classes are invariably small and each student is known, valued and cared for. Progress is monitored and nobody is 'lost in the system'. As Principal, I have the privilege of teaching all students in Year 7. In addition to this, the College Leadership Team visit lessons on a regular basis and are 'out and about' at break and lunch times.

Students at the College come from Guildford, Godalming, Woking, Pyrford, Pirbright, Ash, Aldershot, Normandy, Dorking, Byfleet and London. The distances travelled by many students is a testimony to the quality of the education that many families feel is provided at the College. There is a network of buses and coaches on major routes to facilitate travel to and from the College.

I hope that, after reading this prospectus and visiting the College, you will be able to see that our values and standards are made manifest throughout. However, we are determined not to be complacent. The Governors, College Leadership Team and staff are constantly striving to improve. All aspects of College life are continually monitored, evaluated and reviewed so that improvements can be made for the future. The underlying management philosophy is continuous improvement for the benefit of all students.

At Christ's College, we follow the practice of a number of successful and popular colleges by inviting all parents to make a small voluntary donation to the College each year. This donation will be spent exclusively on learning resources for the students.

**Mr S G Green** BSc (Hons) MA (Econ) MEd PGCE NPQH  
Principal



Mr S G Green - Principal

*'At parents evenings, my husband and I always leave with the impression that the Principal and the teachers at the College really do know our children.'*

**Parent**

*'This College is really good at Sport and Performing Arts and provides loads of opportunities for students who are good at that sort of thing. I've been really encouraged here to develop my singing and have had the opportunity to perform in front of the whole school which has boosted my confidence greatly.'*

**Student**

*'I think that it is a really good idea to involve the students in the design of the new College as we can sometimes appreciate things that the teachers can't. I am really looking forward to having light, airy, well-decorated classrooms as well as, of course, a full-size sports hall.'*

**Parent**



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# A Specialist College for Sport and the Performing Arts

Christ's College is affiliated to the Specialist Schools Trust, which promotes excellence and diversity in education. Although the College is committed to all aspects of the curriculum, it promotes excellence through Sport and the Performing Arts. There are festivals of music and drama, together with concerts and College productions, for the wider community. The facilities for Sport and the Performing Arts greatly exceed those found in other similarly sized schools. The College benefits from a wide range of sporting opportunities, which go well beyond the national curriculum and include trampolining, table tennis, personal survival, skiing and outdoor pursuits.



## Background to the College

Christ's College opened in September 2003. The College is an aided, 11-18 school with a thriving sixth form. One key aspect of its foundation is that it is ecumenical, with many Christian denominations represented on the Governing Body. The aim is to serve the whole Christian community. In addition, the Governors regard it as part of the College's Christian mission to serve the community in which it is situated. To this end, the first 60 of the 120 places each year of the College are prioritised for students from this community. Similarly, the College is open to and wishes to encourage applicants from faiths other than Christianity.



The pastoral system operates with a discrete year group for Year 7 and three Houses for Years 8-11, with mixed age tutor groups for Years 8 and 9 and Years 10 and 11. Years 12 and 13 are treated as a discrete unit. There is a strong 'House identity' with numerous inter-house events and competitions. For teaching and learning purposes, there are 5 faculties, some covering only one subject, others covering two or more. All pastoral and subject team leaders will also carry a responsibility for an aspect of whole College policy. The College is committed to the principles of Investors in People.



## A newly built College

The buildings that currently accommodate the College were built in phases during the 1970s. They are not adequate or appropriate for a 21st century curriculum. For the first time in many years, Surrey

will have a brand new college. The DFES has agreed to allocate £20 million to completely rebuild Christ's College.

It is planned that the new College will open in 2007/8. It will be built on the playing fields adjacent to the present building so the work of the College in its present buildings will not be disrupted.

Learning will be at the heart of the design, with maximum emphasis on the use of Information and Communication Technology. All students will have access to personal palm-top/lap-top computers within the faculty areas. Students and parents will have links from home to the College curriculum, to access homework, lesson plans and details of their child's attendance, punctuality, assessments and progress. Students will be able to progress at their own speed supported, where appropriate, by individual learning packages and learning mentors. The latest information management systems will allow the College and parents to track students' progress and allow early intervention if students are slipping behind.

The latest music, art, drama and dance facilities will be provided as befitting a specialist College for Sport and the Performing Arts. Negotiations are beginning with a company that will provide a leisure and fitness club facility to complement the more usual sports facilities.

Initially, the College can only accept 120 students a year from September 2007. Students who gain admission before then will obviously have access to the new facilities when opened.

## The curriculum

At Christ's College, we aim to ensure that all our students continue to develop a love of learning in a wide range of areas. As such, a key focus is to provide a curriculum which is:

- ❖ **Innovative and exciting**
- ❖ **Challenging and flexible**
- ❖ **Relevant to all**
- ❖ **A preparation for life in the 21st century.**

In this way, we hope to nurture inquisitive young minds and encourage all students to achieve the highest standards of which they are capable. Our curriculum is



set within a Christian context, based on mutual respect, self-discipline and high moral standards. All learners follow a specially devised RE programme which seeks to communicate Gospel values in a lively, enjoyable and relevant way.

The staff at Christ's College are keen to embrace the concept of multiple intelligences as a way of improving students' understanding and securing higher examination grades. Subject teachers make use of preferred learning styles and assessment for learning as a way of providing a more personalised learning experience for all students.

Throughout the College, students receive expert advice from a range of speakers on:

- ❖ **Careers in a post-modern society**
- ❖ **Citizenship**
- ❖ **Economic awareness in a global economy**
- ❖ **Health education**
- ❖ **The environment and sustainability.**

The College is sensitive to the feelings of the students and parents on such matters as sex education and complies fully with the teachings of the founding Churches.

The aim throughout is to provide students with a seamless transition from primary school through Years 7 to 13 and then on to University. The vast majority of students leave Christ's College to go into some form of Further or Higher Education. Of these, a significant number go on to university including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Gifted and talented students

Christ's College has many students who are well above the national average for innate intelligence. These students are referred to as 'gifted'.

The College caters for their needs in a variety of ways. There is the opportunity to sit GCSEs before Year 11 and there are a number of local competitions with, for example, the University of Surrey and also national competitions such as the United Kingdom Maths Challenge.

For gifted scientists there is the opportunity to follow separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry in Years 10 and 11. This sort of provision is seldom found in (state) education and provides an excellent platform for AS/A levels at the College.





The College is developing the opportunity for a small number of gifted and talented students to do AS levels in Year 11 - either by the creation of accelerated learning groups lower down the College or by linking with other institutions in the creation of a virtual campus. In addition, opportunities are available for gifted and talented students to experience residential courses, which also extend their learning well beyond the national curriculum.

## Learning for the world of the 21st century

Christ's College aims to develop the key skills, values and degree of independence the world of the 21st century requires. The College is keen to teach not only subjects but also the skills of communication, teamwork, ICT, numeracy, problem solving, independent learning as well as analytical and emotional intelligence.

Homework and activity sheets will be published on the College web site so that students have access to learning 24/7. There will be teachers 'on-line' at certain times of the evening to help students with specific problems in their learning. Each student will have their own electronic folder of College work and their own e-mail address so that they can send work home electronically and submit work electronically from home - at any time.

## Testing and homework

On entry into the College, all learners will sit a Cognitive Ability Test. Based on this Test, all students will receive a target level for Years 7-9 and a target grade for GCSE. Students will be tested every term and their performance in relation to their targets will be closely monitored. Parents will receive termly reports of progress.

Homework is an essential part of the learning process. Educational research shows a strong correlation between schools that put an emphasis on homework and those in which students perform well in exams. Every student will be set homework, in every subject, from Year 7 onwards. There is a published homework calendar, which is provided to students and parents at the beginning of each year. The norm is two homework assignments each night. At Key Stage 3 these assignments should last between 20-30 minutes each. At Key Stage 4, these assignments should take between 30-40 minutes each.

Christ's College provides a Homework Club on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Learning Resources Centre where staff are able to provide further individual support for students with homework.



# Supporting students

Christ's College is renowned for the quality of its pastoral care. The College prides itself on providing a safe, stable and well-ordered environment. High expectations, mutual respect and concern for others form the basis of positive relationships at the College.

We are only too well aware that the transfer to secondary school is a time which can cause considerable anxiety for both parent and child. Our aim is to calm all potential anxieties by ensuring a smooth transfer from our partner primary schools.

This process starts in Year 5 when we invite our partner primary schools into Christ's College to sample some fun activities during our primary liaison week. There are also other events for which we invite a number of pupils from our partner primary schools into Christ's College - such as events for Gifted and Talented primary school pupils.

During the summer term, our Musical Road Show visits as many partner primary schools as possible. There are a number of other initiatives between Christ's College and the primary schools such as Sports Festivals and Drama, Dance and Music workshops.

In Year 6, before transfer to secondary school, the Principal and the Learning Manager for Year 7 visit every pupil in their own primary school to discuss transfer and to answer any questions. There is then a day in the summer which serves as an induction into secondary school.

Students from Year 9 act as 'Mentors' for new students. They will ensure that new students settle in successfully and make new friends. This is not only a great support for the new Year 7 but also provides excellent leadership opportunities for our Year 9 students. They respond superbly, which is a mark of the calibre of students at Christ's College.

We do not forget parents either! New parents are invited to a Year 6 Parents' Evening in July, which offers further information for parents and an opportunity to meet staff who will become key figures during their children's seven years at Christ's College. After this, there is a one-to-one surgery between the family and a member of the College Leadership Team. In the Autumn term, there is a welcome service for new parents at the New Hope Centre Church.

After the first year, all students will have a House Learning Manager who will oversee their progress from Years 8-11. In addition, each student will be allocated a tutor who will see their tutees twice every day. They will be instrumental as learning co-ordinators for the students. They will set and monitor targets for the students by meeting with them on a one-to-one basis at least once every term. If there are any concerns which parents have about the College, the best point of contact is always the tutor who will strive to be an 'expert' on the learning needs of their 'tutees'. If the tutor is unavailable then the House Learning Manager will deal with all concerns.

Students also play an active role in helping us to ensure that their educational experience is as wide, enjoyable and interesting as possible. Each tutor group elects representatives to serve on the House Council and then on the College Council. The College Council meets every half-term with the Principal and the Business Manager. On key questions affecting the students, the College Leadership Team will ask the students for their views. This will be carried out by questionnaires and meetings with groups of students - such as the College Council. The College is keen to ensure that all students have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to their College.



# The wider life of Christ's College

Colleges are much more than 'exam factories'. College should be fun, learning enjoyable and experiences memorable. At Christ's College we place a great emphasis on extra-curricular activities. All experienced staff contribute to at least one extra-curricular activity and all students are expected to join at least one club at the start of the year. There are over 40 clubs to choose from, ranging from art to tennis.

Students from Christ's College participate in a wide range of charity events. There is a Sixth Form Rag Week each year and the money raised goes to the chosen charity for that year. In addition, there are non-uniform days every half-term where the money raised goes to a number of charities - often Christian charities but always chosen by the students through the House and College Council.

The College is conscious of its role in the local community with regard to the world of work. Every year there is the opportunity for all students in Years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form to do work experience both in Surrey and further afield.

Sporting excellence has always been a feature at Christ's College. In the past, students from the College have represented their county, and even country, in a wide and diverse range of sports. With regard to leadership skills through outdoor pursuits, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is open to all students from Year 9 through to the Sixth Form where some students have the opportunity to achieve the Gold Award through the College.

The world of the 21st century will be one of increasing international co-operation. There are regular foreign visits which have, in the past, visited France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Russia and the USA. The College is currently developing a link with Nigeria through the Church of England Diocese of Ile Ife.

Cultural education is a vital part of the learning experience:

◆ **Gallery visits** ◆ **Field studies** ◆ **Museum visits** ◆ **Theatre visits**

These add a rich dimension to curriculum studies at Christ's College. Such trips are not only enriching but also memorable. The policy of the College is to make such educational visits open to everyone who wishes to go, at some stage of their educational experience.

## The partnership with parents

Successful schools enjoy strong links with the parents and Christ's College is no exception.

At the start of every academic year, all parents are invited into the College with their son/daughter for a progress interview with the tutor in which targets



*'Christ's College is blessed with some excellent teachers and some excellent teaching from which my eldest son has greatly benefited in getting to his first choice university.'*

**Parent**

*'At my last secondary school I was severely bullied and so I transferred to Christ's College. Since I have been here, the amount of support I have received has been amazing and I have now got my life back.'*

**Student.**

*'Communication with parents, through the monthly newsletter and the parent focus groups, is first class. As parents we feel fully informed about what is going on at the College.'*

**Parent**



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for their son/daughter in the forthcoming year are set. Parents are then invited back in to review the progress towards these targets before new targets are set in the following September.

To complement these, and in addition to the normal subject based evenings, numerous support evenings for parents focus on the needs of a particular year group. In the past, these have included: option choices, preparation for SATs, Brain Science, work experience, preparation for overseas visits, A level opportunities and support for admission to university.

To canvass the views and wishes of parents, we organise parent focus groups and invite any interested parent to attend Governing Body meetings, as an observer. Every year there is a parental questionnaire which is analysed and acted upon. There is also a parent prayer group to exchange views and share issues for prayer at the College.

In order to keep parents informed, we make use of a number of communication channels. In addition to the student planner, we produce a monthly newsletter for parents of the latest developments at the College. We aim to respond to all parent concerns within 48 hours. Parents are also welcome to visit the College to discuss any particular matter of concern. In order to ensure that we can allocate sufficient time, please telephone in advance.

## Learning to Serve

One of the great pleasures in the teaching profession is to see ex-students return to the College to tell us how they are getting on. It is an immense privilege to be frequently visited by a wide range of Christ's College ex-students who tell us how they enjoyed Christ's College and how they benefited from their experiences. For a teacher, there is no greater accolade.

Christ's College students will always contribute to society and we will always be proud of the role that we were able to play in their development.

This ultimately is what we mean by Learning to Serve.



*Our Future*