

Christ's Hospital Visit

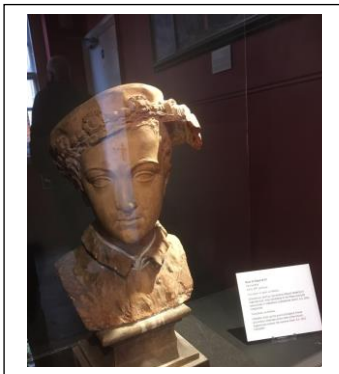
Thursday 24 March 2022



Our group of 24 TAS members was greeted by Laura Kidner, the Museum Curator. Laura gave us an introduction to Christ's Hospital (Hospital as in the meaning 'hospitality') and took us to her *workplace* – the Museum.

What better place to demonstrate the origins of this truly magnificent and unique school, founded in London in 1552 at the instigation of the young King Edward VI who was deeply moved by a sermon about the needs of London's poor. From the beginning this was a co-educational school with a

uniform provided to the pupils free of charge. Blue dress and white cap for the girls (lucky for them updated in the 20th century) and white shirt, knickerbockers, yellow socks for the boys, with dark navy blue coat for both – hence their nickname 'Bluecoats'. In the Museum we were able to view the history of the school, more details about the uniform and the architecture of the school. Although built in Horsham, several architectural features were transported stone by stone from the London site to Horsham.



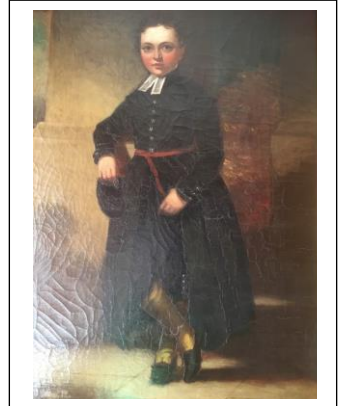
King Edward VI



The original girls' uniform



The original boys' uniform



Boys' uniform several centuries ago, unchanged in 21st C

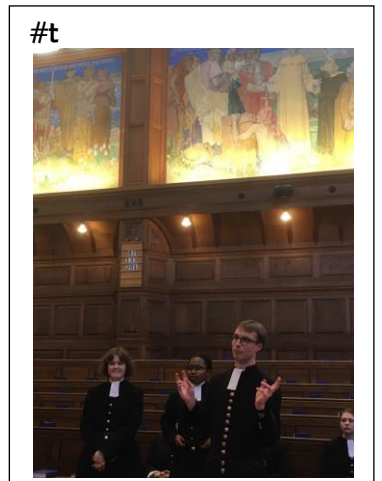
These pupils were our guides round the school grounds and buildings. The boys show a shapely, yellow-clad leg, feet ensconced in Doc Martins.

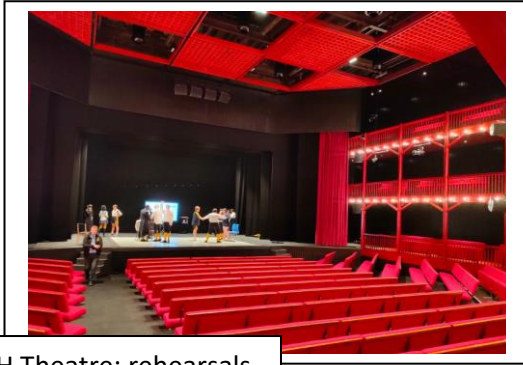


We were divided into two groups. The pupils were excellent guides, explaining and showing us their uniform, commenting on the various buildings, statues, the theatre – and all that while walking backwards, facing us!



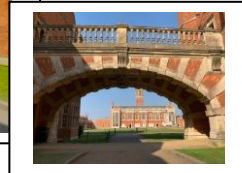
A visit to the Chapel gave us a chance to admire the 16 mural paintings by Sir Frank Brangwyn (1912) depicting the spread of Christianity throughout the world. In the Museum we had already seen some of his cartoons (see fig left)





CH Theatre: rehearsals

Some perfect opportunities to get the perfect shot.



We finished our tour in style with a fabulous afternoon tea, consisting of tasty sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and a mouth-watering variety of little cakes.



Laura thanked our group for their interest and invited anyone who would like to hear the school band to contact the office and arrange to come back to listen to the music. We thanked Laura and praised the pupils in particular for an entertaining, and informative afternoon.

