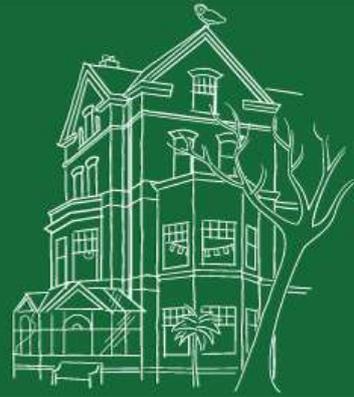


Newsletter



Dear Parent,

As the autumn break approaches, I have been reflecting on our busy start to the academic year. In September, we launched Blue Sky Thinking, and it has been inspiring to hear the girls and staff celebrate St Christopher's achievements, and to make suggestions for improvements. So many wonderful ideas have been shared with us; ideas which speak of cohesion, innovation and kindness. We have created new leadership positions to help roll out the vision we are shaping for the school, and I am pleased to share these details with you today.

Diversity and Inclusion

We hosted two webinars on this topic, one for staff and one for parents, and have spent time reviewing and updating our reading lists and teaching material. I am delighted to announce that Miss Katie McKerchar has been appointed as our Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator. Miss McKerchar joined our community 6 years ago. She is the head of geography and this year she teaches Year 2. She will work with experts, Governors and our community to shape our approach to diversity and inclusion.

Digital Learning

Last term's need for St Christopher's to create online teaching and learning resources certainly challenged us to think about how we might use technology effectively in our teaching. Digital literacy is essential to a modern curriculum and we are eager to continue improve our digital learning strategy. Working with Miss Clarke, Miss Holly Thomas will be driving this, as our new Digital Learning Lead for this year. Miss Thomas is in her second year teaching in Year 3 at St Christopher's. She is passionate about preparing our girls for their future and believes that an integral part of this preparation involves ensuring that they leave St Christopher's with strong digital skills to allow them to become not only consumers of technology, but also creators. She is very much looking forward to her new role.

Senior Leadership

Over the last two weeks, the senior leadership team has been involved in recruiting interim assistant heads for the remainder of the academic year. I am really pleased to announce that Miss Lizzie Elvidge and Mr Jamie McKenzie will be joining the SLT, as interim assistant head pupil development and interim assistant head staff development, respectively. Miss Elvidge will be focusing on pupil development at KS2, as well as the co-curriculum and service, whilst Mr McKenzie's responsibilities will include staff professional development and wellbeing.

Both Miss Elvidge and Mr McKenzie are very excited to be undertaking the role of Interim Assistant Heads. Mr McKenzie joined St Christopher's in 2018 from Milan, where he was teaching in an international school. At St C's, he has been teaching classes in both key stages 1 and 2. He is currently a form tutor in Year 4 and is also the school's online safety coordinator. Outside of school he has a passion for hockey, playing for Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club.

Miss Elvidge is currently in her eighth year of teaching, having taught in schools in the UK and abroad. She started at St Christopher's in 2016 and has been a form tutor in Year 2 and 4. She is currently in her third year with Year 5. Miss Elvidge leads the art and the humanities departments and teaches across Key Stage 2. She is in charge of organising events, such as Take One Picture, Creativity Cup and exhibitions like Around St C's.

Thank you

It has been a high-octane half term, which has shown me the power of our community, immeasurably talented and committed. Many thanks to all of you for your warm and generous welcome. Thank you also for all the generous contributions for the Harvest Festival and the Book Collection, organised by FOSC with their trademark efficiency. 4+ prospective parents have asked me what I have enjoyed about St Christopher's in my first few weeks: it is our sense of community, undoubtedly.

We have choices, in life. It would be natural, with fear being all around us at the moment, to want to go into hiding, to hibernate and hope to wake up in a stress-free world after winter. The choices we are making as a community speak of our strength and resourcefulness. I was reminded of a quote by Nelson Mandela two days ago: "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears". How fitting for St Christopher's, a school where everything and everyone exudes hope and enthusiasm.

With all good wishes,



Sandrine Paillasse