



THE
HERITAGE
TOUR



CHARTERHOUSE

TOUR OF THE MAIN SCHOOL SITE

Please note that internal access to buildings is not permitted, except by prior arrangement.

1 Founder's Court

The front of the School is graced by a statue of Thomas Sutton, the founder (sculptor Goscombe John). This statue was erected in 1911 to commemorate the Tercentenary of the foundation. Following Sutton's death in 1611, the School was established in an old Carthusian monastery in London, from which the name Charterhouse derives. In 1872 the School moved from London to its present site. In those early days the School was approached from Godalming along Peperharow Road and then up Racquets Court Hill. Visitors would then catch their first glimpse of the Victorian Gothic buildings on the crest of the hill. They were designed by the architect P.C. Hardwick and built out of local Bargate Sandstone from quarries around the School grounds. To the North of Founder's court is Sutton, a girls' boarding house that occupies one of the original buildings (formerly Saunderites). The water tower stands prominently above Gownboys. Near the top of the tower is an effigy of Thomas Sutton in classical dress.

2 Flagpole

On the wall beside the flagpole is a plaque commemorating the Old Carthusian Football Club's success in winning the FA cup in 1881. Charterhouse is proud of its role in the history of Association Football. The School was an inaugural member of the Football Association and was influential in developing the FA rules; Charles Wreford-Brown (G1885), is credited with coining the word "soccer". The School 1st XI plays on the neighbouring pitch, known as Big Ground. In 2008 this was the scene of a great triumph when the School won the Independent Schools Football Association Cup for the first time in the final against Millfield.

3 William Haig Brown Statue

(sculptor Harry Bates)
William Haig Brown (Headmaster 1863-1897) was responsible for the move from London to Godalming. The statue shows him holding a model of the chapel and looking out across Green towards Hambledon where his wife's family lived.

4 The South African Cloister

The South African memorial (designed by W.D. Caroe) commemorates those Old Carthusians who died in the Boer War and particularly in the defence of Mafeking under the leadership of Robert Baden-Powell (G/g 1875); he became a national hero and went on to found the Boy Scout movement. There are also many plaques in memory of Beaks (teachers) and Carthusians, including two notable mountaineers, George Mallory (Brooke Hall 1910-1921) and Wilfrid Noyce (W1936, Brooke Hall 1950-61).

5 The Old Chapel

The Old Chapel (below) served the School until the Memorial Chapel opened in 1927. It was converted into a Music School in 1940, with a small chapel remaining upstairs at the East end and a concert hall at the West end. The tower at the West end holds a set of 37 carillon bells bequeathed to Charterhouse in 2013 following the closure of Mostyn House prep school.



6 The 'Temple of the Four Winds'

The 'Temple of the Four Winds' or 'Middlebriars' is the corridor between Founder's Court and the Cloisters; it houses memorials brought down from the Old Charterhouse, including the original archway from the entrance to Gownboys in London.

7 Founders' Chapel

A spiral staircase in the corner of the South African Cloister leads up to the Founders' Chapel, named in honour of the School's founder, Thomas Sutton, and the "second founder", William Haig Brown. This small chapel includes the tombstone of William Haig Brown. Above the Chapel is the classroom for the organist, which is the remnants of the old 'Hen Roost' – a throwback to the days when female members of the community were not allowed to join the male staff and pupils on the floor of the Chapel.

8 Gownboys

Originally the scholars' house, it was decided after the move to Godalming to spread the scholars amongst all the Houses. The drawing room on Private Side used to be the Governors' Room and later became a 'remote and inadequate' Brooke Hall until 1915.

9 Sutton (formerly Saunderites)

Originally this was the Headmaster's house, named after Dr Augustus Page Saunders, Headmaster at the London Charterhouse from 1832 to 1853.

10 Reception (formerly Old Headmaster's House and garden)

For many years the Headmaster was also Housemaster of Saunderites. Sir Brian Young (Headmaster 1952-64) had a new house built in the neighbouring Saunderites garden in 1958. Gertrude Jekyll suggested the original design for parts of this garden, which includes a fine summerhouse thought to be designed by Lutyens. The house is now used for the main reception and administrative offices.

11 Scholars' Court

This cloistered area allowed pupils in the early days to move under cover between all the original school buildings. In the middle of the cloisters is a Venetian marble well-head presented to the School in 1958 as a memorial to JFM Prinsep (R/W 1878) who played football for England and was a member of the winning Old Carthusian FA cup team in 1881. In the North wall there is a doorway close to the entrance to Saunderites, which led to the masters' common room (the original Brooke Hall). There was also a Governors' Room in what is now part of Gownboys. On the South side is Oak café, opened in 2021 and named after the historic oak tree that stood nearby and was a school meeting point for many years.

12 C Block

Built in 1874, C Block housed the 'C divisions', rather than the Classical scholars (A & B divisions) who were taught in the Library or surrounding classrooms. The original Science rooms were at the top of this building. Today C Block hosts the English & History departments. The North end was added in 1901. Note the fine armorial shields on the North side of the building (left to right): ES Talbot (day boy 1858, Bishop of Winchester), Lord Alverstone (S 1861, Lord Chief Justice), Sir Richard Jebb (S/G 1858, Professor of Greek, Glasgow University) and RSS Baden-Powell (G/g 1875, founder of the Scout Movement).

13 Maintenance & Engineer's Cottage

This fine building originally housed the School laundry and workshops. It included access to the well from which water was pumped to the top of the Gownboy tower to supply the School with water. Cogs from the original steam pump can be seen outside the building. The Chief Engineer lived in Engineer's Cottage in order to maintain the steam engine.

14 New Block

In 1929 this classroom block was built on the edge of Lessington playing field. On the North side two plain walls reveal a plan, unfulfilled, to add extra classrooms.

15 Memorial Garden

Near Engineer's Cottage is a garden created in memory of General Alan Fleming Hartley (W1899). In 1901 he served in South Africa and in World War I in France, Belgium, the Balkans and Iraq, winning the DSO in 1917. During World War II he became Commander in Chief of forces in India.

16 K Block (new Chemistry and Mathematics building)

This Chemistry and Mathematics building, completed in 2019, was designed by architects from Design Engine. It comprises 7 chemistry laboratories, 5 maths classrooms, 2 preparation rooms and a project research room. The distinctive ventilation chimneys mimic the shape and roof pattern of the School's Gothic towers. The architecture has won RIBA and Civic Trust awards.

17 Business, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Centre (Old Museum Block)

This was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and built in 1890-92. It housed the Museum and Lecture Theatre. Today it houses the Business, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Centre, and Geography and Theology classrooms.

18 Observatory Building (Old Science Block)

Built in stages in 1882, 1907 & 1920, the Science Block was refurbished between 1984 and 1990 and again in 2021-2022. On the South side is the Old Carthusian Clock celebrating the Tercentenary of the School's Foundation. Below is the School coat of arms with the motto 'Deo Dante Dedi', which translates as 'With God giving, I gave'. The green dome on the rooftop houses the observatory.

19 Modern Languages Centre

This new building, designed by the Solway Brown Partnership, is on the old workshop site. It is built with Clipsham limestone, which is also used in the Memorial Chapel. It was officially opened in 2007 by Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations.

20 Beveridge Centre

This building, named after Lord William Beveridge (g 1897), was converted from the old shops to house the Social Sciences and the Careers Room. It was officially opened in 2006 by Lord Butler of Brockwell, Master of University College, Oxford.

21 John Derry Technology Centre

This was named after the test pilot John Derry (G1941), who in 1948 was the first to break the sound barrier. It was designed by Richard Gilbert Scott (G1941) and opened in 1980; it replaced the old wooden sheds on the site of the new Modern Languages Centre. Behind the JDTC is the shooting range.

22 Armoury

Built away from the main School for safety, it is the base for the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). It was completed in 1915. Inside is a memorial plaque to celebrate winning the Ashburton Shield for shooting; the last of 13 Ashburton victories came in 1988. It also houses the 'Mafeking gun', given to the School to celebrate Baden-Powell's success in the Boer War.

23 Art and Design Centre (Studio)

This purpose-built Art Studio was designed by James Dartford (father of an OC) in 1958 and is a classic early example of the 1960s modern architectural style found in many educational establishments. An additional wing was added in 2023, creating the new Art and Design Centre. A water feature designed by William Pye (L1956) graces the courtyard on the South side of Studio.

24 Girdlestoneites

FKW Girdlestone (G1863, Brooke Hall 1876-1912) was one of the ten teachers who moved with the School from London to Godalming on 18 June 1872. The School's rapid expansion meant that the three original block boarding houses were insufficient and so masters were encouraged to provide extra accommodation at their own expense. Girdlestone's peculiar walk created the nickname of "Duck" and his House is known as Duckites to this day. Girdlestone initially set up his house in the Square in Godalming, whilst he built Girdlestoneites, which opened in 1874.

25 Hall

The Hall was added in 1884, designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield during the height of the Romantic Gothic revival. The exterior boasts a pinnacle spire, croquets, stone escutcheons, gargoyles and armorial shields of the Headmaster and seven of his assistant masters. Beside the doorway next to the Sixth Form Arch a shield depicts a goat's head – the armorial device of HJ Evans (1866-1900). On the other side are the three battle axes of CH Weekes (1872-1902), founder of Weekites. Above the main South door to Hall is the shield of Thomas Sutton, the Founder, with the greyhound head. The shield to the East of the doorway is that of TG Vyvyan (1865-1899) and shows a lion rampant. On the East-facing gable is a crowing cockerel and lion rampant. The North side is decorated with the shields of FKW Girdlestone (griffin with two darts), C Marshall and GS Davies.

26 Library

Library was part of the original School in 1872 and refurbished in 2004. Rooms off the Library include the Daniel Wray Room (day boy 1714), which houses the Old Carthusian Collection, the Sir Ronald Millar Room (P1938, dramatist and speech writer for three prime ministers including Margaret Thatcher) and the Gilbert Edgar Room (named after Gilbert Edgar (L1915), Sherriff of the City of London and a Governor of Charterhouse). The Gallery Room houses the Rare Books Collection. Also note the stained glass window at the West end with panels depicting various aspects of Learning: Literature, Religious Studies, Music, Classical Languages, Mathematics, Geography, History and Science.

27 Brooke Hall

Designed in 1915 by Douglas Stewart (G1893), Brooke Hall is both a building and the collective name for the teaching staff. The name originates from Robert Brooke (Headmaster 1628-43). This building was erected through the generosity of Henry Silver (V1844). The coats of arms above the archway are (left to right) the Punch cartoonist John Leech (day boy 1831), Henry Silver, William Makepeace Thackeray (day boy 1828, novelist), Gerald Davies (Brooke Hall 1873-1905 and founder of Daviesites), Edward Stuart Talbot (day boy 1858, Bishop of Winchester) and Sir Frank Fletcher, (Headmaster 1911-1935). To the left of the arch is the Charterhouse shield based on that of Thomas Sutton, who founded the School in 1611. On the right are the Royal arms, since Charterhouse has been honoured to list the monarch as a Governor.

28 The Bridge

The bridge was built in 1886 so that Hodgsonites, Daviesites, Bodeites, Pageites, & Robinites could access the School, whilst Lockites & Weekites (below the bridge) had a steep flight of stairs up to the East end of the Chapel. The road beyond is named Sellar's Hill after Walter Sellar, former Housemaster of Daviesites & joint author of "1066 and All That". These Houses were vacated in 1974 and demolished in the late '70's.

29 Memorial Chapel

This fine edifice is the largest War Memorial in the country and records the names of 687 OCs who perished in the First World War and a further 340 names of those who died in the Second World War. The Chapel foundation stone was laid on 17th June 1922 by Randall, Archbishop of Canterbury. This lies half way down the South side close to the RVW Music School entrance. Note the slight alteration to the School motto: 'Deo, Dante, Dederunt' – 'As God gave, they gave'. The Chapel was consecrated on 18th June 1927. The architect was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott – famous for Liverpool Cathedral, the red phone box (one stands outside the Old Bursary) and the South Bank Power Station (now Tate Modern). In the North-West porch is the Benn Memorial and a plaque for Orde Wingate (S 1916-1920), which was unveiled in 1951 by Lord Mountbatten of Burma. Other additions are the names of those killed in more recent conflicts, and a plaque acknowledging that names of some casualties of the World Wars are not recorded in the Chapel. The North-East porch was given by the Charterhouse Lodge of Freemasons; the small chapel at the side of this porch was created to celebrate the Millennium. The South-West porch was given by Sir Herbert & Lady Vernon in memory of their son H.D. Vernon, Head Monitor of Saunderites 1911-12, who died on the Somme in 1916. The porch in the South-East corner gives access to the Vestry.



30 Ralph Vaughan Williams Music Centre

This famous Old Carthusian composer (1872-1958) was a Saunderite and then a Robinite from 1887-1890. The Music Centre foundation stone was laid by his widow, Ursula Vaughan Williams, on 30 June 1979 and she unveiled a plaque to open the building in 1980. The architect was Richard Gilbert Scott (G1941) second son of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The hexagonal Llewellyn Room on the Southern end is named in honour of Bill Llewellyn MBE (Director of Music 1965-1987).

31 Peter May Pavilion

This was originally named 'Crown', after a game at the Old Charterhouse. The tuck shop was originally housed at the North end, with a separate stairway and hatch for all the 'Bloods' (the leading games players). The pavilion is now named in honour of Peter May (S1947), England Cricket captain and regarded as one of the finest batsmen of the post-war era. Upstairs in the Old Carthusian clubroom there is a commemorative board to all OCs who won international football honours. There are also honours boards listing all the 1st XI Football (since 1862) and Cricket (since 1837) teams to represent the School.

32 Verites

Verites was one of the original boarding houses, built in 1872 and named after Oliver Walford, "Old Ver" (OC 1827-1831). He was the Usher (Deputy Headmaster) and also Housemaster of Verites from 1838-1855

33 The 'Blood Steps'

These lead from the Verite terrace down onto Green. Beside the steps is a memorial plaque to Annie Marion, wife of William Haig Brown. The terrace was constructed in 1924.

34 Wilderness

The name originates from the old Charterhouse and described a belt of trees south of Undergreen. It now refers to the cricket pitch used by 'Maniacs', a team who played 'foreign' fixtures against local villages and clubs.

35 Garden Wall

At the South-West corner of Lessington a stone plaque on the garden wall outside Reception marks the original boundary between the School and Lessington Farm: the plaque, reading 'This wall belongs to Charterhouse 1884', was installed during a property dispute with the farm owners.

36 Lessington

Lessington Farm was acquired by the School in 1896. None of the farm buildings survive, but the name Lessington continues as a football ground.

37 Undergreen

This 10 acre field was bought in 1887. The name originated from the Old Charterhouse.

38 Broom & Lees

Broom and Lees is accessed by the Henry Southwell (W1995) Bridge. This sports field was acquired in 1908.

39 Crown

This pavilion houses the tuck shop downstairs and the Sixth Form Centre upstairs. The tuck shop moved across from the Peter May Pavilion after the New Houses opened in 1972. The term Crown comes from a painted Crown at the Old Charterhouse, which was the finishing line in a game of hoops.

40 The New Houses

Daviesites, Robinites, Pageites, Bodeites & Hodgsonites, Weekites & Lockites and Heywood Court. were designed by Richard Gilbert Scott (G1941) and opened in 1974. At the bottom of the Heywood Court tower is the foundation stone unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1972. These Houses have all incorporated memorials from the original old Houses. For example, the arch outside Bodeites is a war memorial and Hodgsonites have incorporated a fireplace from the London Charterhouse into the wall as a memorial to former Housemaster JC Thomson (Brooke Hall 1909-1947). Two new Houses, Northbrook and new Saunderites, were designed and built by Feltham Construction Ltd to provide additional boarding facilities, enabling Charterhouse to become fully coeducational. They were formally opened by Jeremy Hunt MP (W1984) in October 2021.

41 Fletcherites

Opened as a day house in 2010, this building was originally the manor house for the Northbrook estate, purchased by the School in 1924. Over the years it has housed the Headmaster, Bursar and the old medical centre, known as 'Great Comp'. The façade facing South was built c.1800 whilst the back, the oldest part of the building, is Queen Anne Dutch style from the late 17thC. The estate included a walled garden and an early cricket ground lay to the South-West of the building.

42 Old Dairy

This half-timbered dairy (note the small, high windows) was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1895 and is now part of Fletcherites.

43 Beatson Memorial Garden

This garden was laid out in 2009 with the aid of a bequest to the Carthusian Society from Robin Beatson (W 1944). His brother had been killed in World War Two.

44 Queens Sports Centre

The foundation stone was laid by Mr Richard Thornton, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and Chairman of the Governing Body (1981-1989). The building was completed in 1995 and officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 21 Feb 1997. It houses a main hall, swimming pool, climbing tower, fitness suites, activity rooms, changing facilities and a café.

45 Northbrook Astroturf Pitches

The Astroturf all-weather Hockey pitches were inaugurated in 2012. The site was originally a 19th century cricket pitch, known as Cattley's Level in honour of the owner of Northbrook House, Wildman Cattley.



46 Halford Hewitt Golf Course

The School used to run a farm on the land which now forms the nine-hole course designed by Donald Steele and opened in 1988. The quarry on the 4th hole provided Bargate Sandstone for the Memorial Chapel. Some of this land was designated for housing and a track and a sewer were installed, but farsighted beaks intervened to buy the land for the School. The old, unused stink pipe can still be seen on the edge of the 2nd fairway.

47 Sir Greville Spratt Athletics Stadium

Commissioned in 1996, it is named after Greville Spratt (g1945) who was captain of Athletics. He became Lord Mayor of London in 1987 and was Chairman of the Governing Body from 1989-95.

48 Ben Travers Theatre

Ben Travers (D1904) was a famous Old Carthusian playwright. He unveiled the foundation stone on OC day in 1980. The theatre was designed by Richard Gilbert Scott (G1941) and was built within a small quarry that contained an icehouse for the Northbrook estate. The first production in the new theatre was Thark (by Ben Travers) in January 1984.

49 Fives Courts

Built in the entrance of the old quarry that provided much of the Bargate Sandstone for the Old Block houses, eight Eton Fives courts survive.

50 Squash Courts

Built in 1970s with help from the Heywood Trust. CG Heywood (R/g1905) was a generous benefactor.

51 Racquets Court

Two Racquets courts remain at the bottom of Rackets Court Hill near the original gateway to the School. The old swimming pool, which was on the opposite side of the drive, was demolished in 1996 when the Queen's Sports Centre opened. Seaman House (a country retreat for the Charterhouse in Southwark community) and the shooting range have also been closed down. Seaman House was on the site of the old School gasworks, which had a short life before it was closed down due to objections of the local residents.



38 Broom & Lees Prince's Avenue Entrance

Queen's Drive Entrance

Lessington

Under Green

Wildernesse

J Ground

Founder's Court

Big Ground

Northbrook

Queen's Sports Centre

To the Halford Hewitt Golf Course

Promontory Netball and Tennis Courts

47 Sir Greville Spratt Athletics Stadium

HOUSES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B Bodeites | G Gownboys | R Robinites |
| C Chetwynd | H Hodgsonites | S Saunderites |
| D Daviesites | L Lockites | SU Sutton |
| F Fletcherites | N Northbrook | V Verites |
| g Girdlestoneites | P Pageites | W Weekites |