

## **Petition 1552: Returning Christ's Hospital to its Centuries-old Mission**

### **Formal Petition to the Council of Almoners of Christ's Hospital**

Date: February 9 2016

Following extensive discussion of the British Columbia Old Blues (BCOB) Executive's "*Sui Generis*" Letter, a significant group of Old Blues, deeply committed to the continued success of Christ's Hospital and its original charitable mission of educating poor and needy children, and mindful of the extraordinary challenges in today's world of protecting and building the Endowment Fund which secures Housey's financial base and the funding of the School, formally petition the Council of Christ's Hospital to:

***(1) Set aside the current Governance proposal to merge the CH Foundation with the School and to make the Head of School the Chief Executive, which we believe will have serious and unfortunate consequences for the School.***

- The uniqueness of CH, as opposed to other independent schools, is the fact that the Foundation, headed by the Clerk, has maintained the ethos of educating children in need for 460 years by its control of the Endowment and allocating only to those in need. The Head is unqualified to manage a £300 million endowment just as the Clerk would be unqualified to run a school.
- It is vital for the School and Foundation to remain separate entities, with the Clerk continuing to report, as always, directly to the Council as trustees of the charity. It is the Clerk's responsibility to manage and grow the over £300 million endowment, directing the team of specialist advisers, and to protect and deliver the charitable funds necessary to implement the mission. The Clerk has a very long term responsibility (whereas the Head has a horizon of a decade or two) to ensure that CH can continue its work of the past 460 years. The separation of the business side of CH from the academic was a wise move and has worked well.

***We petition that the separation of powers between the Foundation and the School be maintained.***

**(2) Set in place a plan to reduce the percentage of FFP students attending CH from the current 2016 level of 26% to 10% by 2020.**

- We recognise that the steeper the FFP reduction, the greater the need to engage a significant and urgent fund raising drive with the maximum support of the Old Blue community. At the same time greater economies and cost cutting in relation to expenses is an additional necessary outcome of reducing the FFP count.
- Of grave concern expressed by many Old Blues is the certainty that increasing use of FFP students financed by wealthy parents can only erode Christ's Hospital's mission and charitable ethos, and undermine our claim of *Sui Generis* – A School Like No Other.

***We petition this at a time when income inequality and educational deprivation in the UK remain profound and disturbing problems.***

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