

SEPTEMBER 2021
Issue 21

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

SEPTEMBER 2021

Aerial shot of the mansion on the first day of term as we welcome back pupils for the new academic year.

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CLASS OF 2020 LEAVERS' PROM

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STAY CONNECTED

Rosalind Seabrook

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alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk



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KEEP IN TOUCH

We're always keen to keep in touch with the Claremont Fan Court community. Whether it's memories of your school days, stories of your travels, career details or reunions.

Please email alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk with your updates.

HEADS' BLOG

The summer term is a time of great celebration. Often these celebrations take the form of traditional events: sports days; musical productions; graduation events and so on. Sometimes the cause for celebration is less immediately obvious – especially in end of year examinations which offer, along with the associated revision and stress, the opportunity to shine and celebrate all that has been learned. The summer term of 2020 was largely experienced remotely and even this year, with a return to more normal times, our older pupils will not experience the bitter-sweetness of public examinations and some of the associated rites of passage. Nonetheless, we are determined to make this term one of true celebration, in part because, quite simply, we are grateful that we can.

Read the full blog at
www.claremontfancourt.co.uk/headsblog

Join the online alumni community

- Create an online profile
- Keep your contact details up to date
- Connect with old school friends
- Register to attend alumni events
- Receive school and alumni news

www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

A warm welcome to all our alumni

Dear friends,

I am writing hot on the heels of a hugely impressive set of A level and GCSE examination results. All A level candidates have been offered a place by their first or second choice university. These results are concrete, visible assessments of what the school achieves, but there are other intangible at least equally important lifelong lessons learned from being a pupil at CFCS. Recently an alumna told me how a group of alumni she now associates with were discussing what it was about the school's influence that they felt is still very much with them today. They all agreed that it was the spiritually led infusion of common values emanating from its foundation. These they still hold dear, and feel are much needed in today's world. Our head and his fellow heads of schools are pioneering the enhancement of academic attainment through character education. CFCS is, and I believe always will be, a wholly inclusive values led school – contributing to a better world.

I hope this newsletter nurtures your connection with the school and with other alumni.

With kind regards

Andrew Sutherland
Chair of governors



A word from the editor...

As an alumni myself (Longcross house, class of 2018) I am delighted to be returning to Claremont as the alumni relations officer this September. I graduated this year with a degree in History of Art from the University of York, with a particular interest in historical textiles. Taking over from Kelly, I hope to continue and build on her work in bringing together the alumni community.

With a background in Art History I am also hoping to highlight some of the architectural and interior features of Claremont. If you have any memories or photographs of Claremont's interiors, or photos in general, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me. I look forward to meeting as many of our alumni community as feasible, virtually or in person, this coming year.

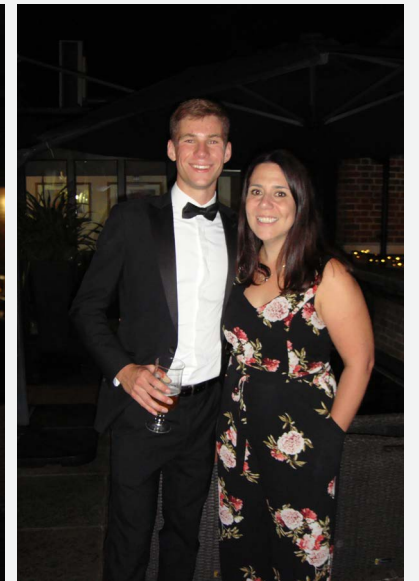
Rosalind Seabrook
Alumni relations officer



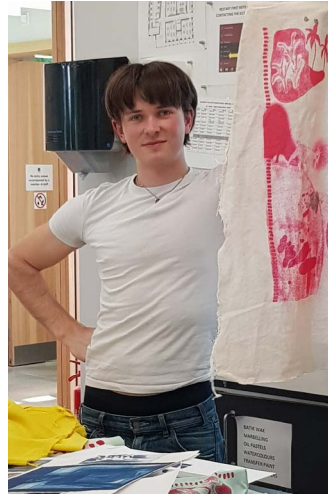
2020 LEAVERS' PROM

A CLASS OF 2020 REUNION

On the Monday 6 September, the school was delighted to welcome back many of the class of 2020 for their rescheduled prom, postponed like many events due to COVID-19. The evening, which took place at Silvermere golf course, was a great success and thanks go to staff and parents for their help and support. Special thanks to parents Janet, Wendy and Deborah who decorated and set up the venue beforehand to make the evening possible. The prom was a lovely opportunity for the class of 2020 to reunite, get dressed up and enjoy themselves before they return to further study at university. We welcome any additional photos from the event and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.



ALUMNI NEWS



FASHION STUDENT FREDDY COOMES RETURNS TO CLAREMONT

Alumni and Central Saint Martins (CSM) textile design student, Freddy Coomes (-2019), visited the textile design department during enrichment week during the summer term to show Year 10, Year 11 and A level textile design pupils the portfolio he created in his first year at university.

Pupils were impressed by both his work and the description of the textile design course at CSM. Freddy described the incredibly disciplined work ethic required to be a successful student at such a prestigious university for fashion and textiles.

Freddy also showed the students the website for the design company he has founded himself and explained how his company employs 5 factories across the world to produce his own collection. Overall, Freddy was able to provide a comprehensive and detailed insight for those interested in pursuing a career in textile design.



EMMA THORNTON APPEARS ON DRAGON'S DEN

Founder and owner of TRUE skincare (www.trueskincare.co.uk), Emma Thornton (1996-2008) courageously appeared on Dragon's Den in April 2021 to pitch to the dragons. Her presentation on the BBC show impressed the dragons, so much so, that she received a number of very tempting offers from the entrepreneurs in support of her business. After the episode was aired, Emma wrote on LinkedIn: *"It was an incredible experience and with thousands of orders to get out and hundreds of emails to respond to, it's been such an exciting but busy few days!"*

Emma's TRUE skincare products are certified as waterless, organic, natural, vegan, and cruelty free and it was wonderful to see her passion for the brand shine through during her pitch to the dragons. Following the experience, Emma has seen her business grow from strength to strength with lots of online orders and interest from a range of retailers. Huge congratulations to her on this fantastic achievement!



SARAH WILLIS AWARDED MBE

Hearty congratulations to alumni, Sarah Willis (1980-1986), who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours last week for 'her services to charity and for the promotion of classical music'.

After being introduced to the French horn at Claremont in 1982, Sarah is now a highly esteemed French horn player, presenter of TV and online programmes about classical music and became the first female brass player in the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra.

Sarah also featured in the December 2020 edition of our alumni newsletter available via the online alumni community www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk



REMEMBERING PATRICIA FARRAR

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRINCIPAL, PATRICIA FARRAR

Patricia Farrar, former Principal of Claremont Fan Court School, passed away on 7 May 2021. Patricia retired in 2008 following a 25-year career at the school, with 14 of these years as Principal. Three of Patricia's colleagues, Gordon Hunt, David Ford and Linda Cox share their memories with us...

Patricia joined the then middle school (now Prep School) in 1983 as a class teacher and art specialist. She is remembered by many pupils as being an inspirational teacher who maintained and expected high standards from everyone. She became head of the middle school in 1993 and those whom she led remember her with great affection and respect for her calmness, wisdom, high standards and laughter.

It was when Patricia became Principal of Claremont Fan Court in 1995 that the depth and breadth of her many qualities became apparent. The Christian Science foundation of the school was very important to Patricia and her senior management team. Her first step to raise the profile of this in a way which was acceptable to everyone was to write a new mission statement founded on recognising the God-given potential of each child. It reflected the original mission of the founders of both Fan Court and Claremont. She then created the character education programme which still provides a basis and common language that the whole school community can use to enhance self-respect, mutual cooperation and responsibility for the community and environment. This is a lasting legacy.

Another major contribution was the introduction of the laptop programme. A very successful, and at that time, revolutionary approach to learning that enabled pupils to develop IT skills and utilise the internet to further their knowledge. This took courage to introduce and put the school at



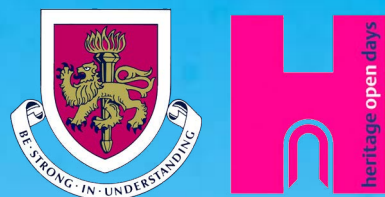
the forefront of educational thinking at that time. Jumping forward to 2020, it could be argued that her foresight has enabled the school to be effective in its promotion of distant learning during the pandemic.

Patricia's understanding of each stage of education from early years to sixth form informed her role as Principal. There were several challenges during her tenure, all of which she met with courage, calmness and determination. She had great vision which she could articulate in a way that carried others; she could delegate but also keep all the strands firmly in hand so the projects went smoothly forwards as a whole. She oversaw all academic, pastoral and financial aspects as well as looking to future development. She brought insight, clarity, professionalism, flair and creativity to all she did. Patricia also showed great compassion, warmth, concern and support when needed. Her style of leadership was quiet, without ego, but firm and strong. She made high demands on herself and expected the same from others. She was gracious, had wonderful style and great dignity. Christian Science

underpinned her life and her reliance on God guided every aspect of her life.

At heart, Patricia was always an artist. Her love of art, a love shared with Howard and her two sons Julian and Simeon, both professional artists, and daughter Kristin, a teacher; gave her a new impetus following her retirement in 2008. She began a BA Painting (Hons) degree with the Open College of Art which she recently completed. Her online exhibition can be seen on her website: www.patricia-farrar.co.uk. It is titled 'Someone coloured my world today' and along with exquisite paintings we hear Patricia sharing her thoughts. This is the person who gave so much of her love, inspiration, commitment and life to Claremont Fan Court School.

There will be a live exhibition of Patricia's artwork at the River House Barn, Walton upon Thames in 2022. The exhibition will show work from the degree as well as sketches and experimental pieces illustrating Patricia's ongoing quest to find her identity as an artist, put on hold for much of her life as an educator.



Former royal residence

CLAREMONT MANSION



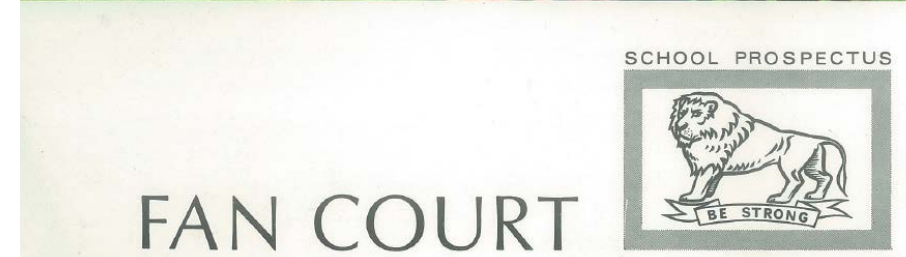
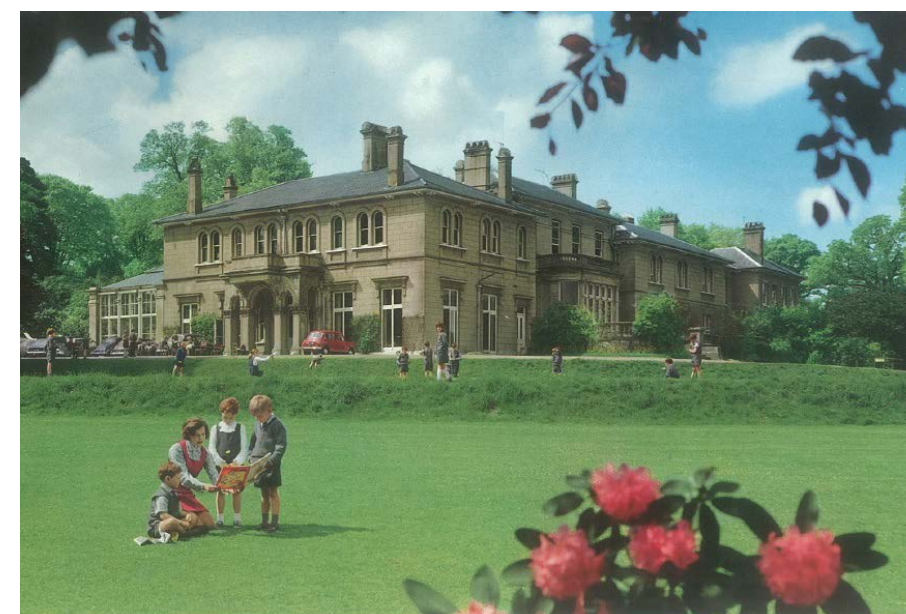
Claremont Fan Court School

Saturday 11 September 2021, 10am - 4pm

Free admission and pre-booking required.
Tours available at 11am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm.
Booking open from 11 August 2021

Online booking: www.thelittleboxoffice.com/claremont

FAN COURT FOCUS



A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST: FAN COURT PROSPECTUS FROM 1967/8

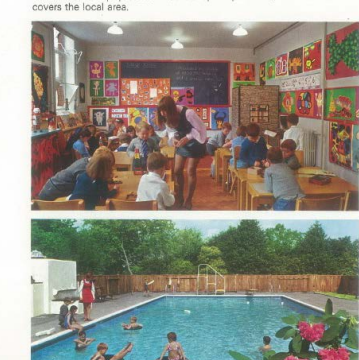
Earlier this year we were pleased to be contacted by former Fan Court boy, Ian Kynoch (1949-1953), who kindly shared a scanned copy of an old Fan Court School prospectus dated circa 1967/8. The prospectus was discovered by a local Longcross resident and passed on to Patricia Crawford, a resident with a keen interest in the history of Fan Court. The prospectus, with its wonderful photographs depicting lessons and the subjects taught in excellent detail, captures life at Fan Court during the late 60s and serves as a valuable insight into how Fan Court School came to be.

Fan Court School located in Longcross, Surrey was founded by Geith Plimmer and Guy Snape in 1932 – opening to just five boys initially. Fan Court School eventually amalgamated with Claremont School in 1978.

A copy of the prospectus is available to browse through on the alumni website:
www.claremontfancourtalumni.co.uk

JUNIORS

Facilities
The classrooms are spacious and brightly decorated, with carpeted play areas for the younger children, and a large new cloakroom. The whole department is centrally heated in winter, light and well-ventilated in summer. The children have their own climbing frame, slide, see-saw, swings, and a large sandpit; they also use the gymnasium and swimming pool. In order to help parents with transport problems, the School bus covers the local area.



SCHOOL NEWS



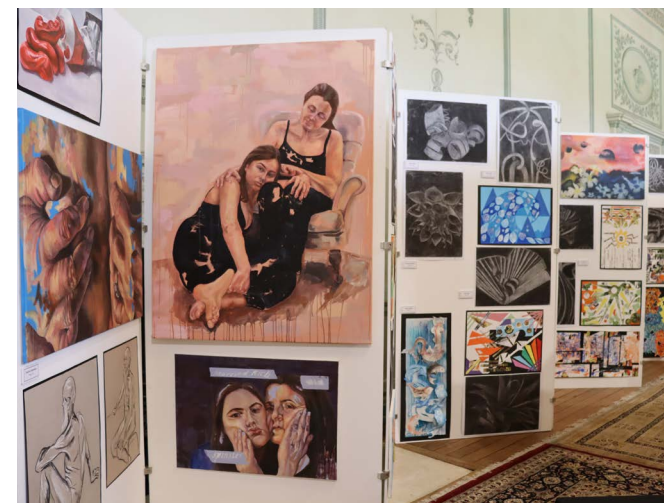
GRATITUDE FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

The school has been a hive of activity this summer term with our inaugural gratitude festival, so named because June is the month where the school explored the character quality of gratitude, and emerging from what has been a challenging academic year, the very act of coming together and sharing the work of our pupils has been a real cause for celebration. Over the course of a two-week period in the run up to the end of term, we saw a vibrant and eclectic range of activities and events taking place throughout the school.

Whatever their age, many of the qualities we hold dear at Claremont Fan Court School characterised this gratitude festival. From endeavour on the sports field to courage and confidence performing on stage, each event offered its own unique glimpse into the joy which we see at Claremont every day. Each and every pupil can be proud of their achievements this academic year and it has been a real privilege to be able to run these events.

ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXTILES EXHIBITION

The Senior School art and photography department proudly celebrated the exceptional work of our talented GCSE and A level students this year with a fantastic exhibition in the Great Room of the mansion during gratitude festival. A number of the artworks on display were created under lockdown conditions and the quality, variety and maturity of the pieces have shone through with some really wonderful and inspirational outcomes. Though it was fantastic to be able to share the exhibition with the parents of the artists and photographers, we hope that next year we will have the opportunity to open up the exhibition to the wider school community.



ENRICHMENT WEEK 2021

Senior School pupils enjoyed a vast array of enrichment activities each day during the week of 21 – 25 June. The much-anticipated enrichment week is always an opportunity to learn new skills, face fears, and make new friends. After what has been a challenging academic year hampered by restrictions and COVID-19 guidelines, it has been a real pleasure to offer pupils an opportunity to enjoy an action-packed enrichment week programme.

PREP ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

On the penultimate day of term, twelve children from the Prep School gathered together for an environmental summit. Named 'G12,' each class representative delivered a highly professional speech from the perspective of a country they had been studying. They then discussed pledges which could be made by the rest of the school over the holidays and these were voted on in the summer. Every class had fun creating their own plastic sculptures to represent the plight of the oceans and banners were produced to accompany the Gee7 song in the afternoon. Most impressively, the summit was organised and led by some highly enthusiastic Year 6 pupils. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and willingness to stand up for what they believe in.



PRE-PREP AND NURSERY SPORTS DAY

The Pre-Prep and Nursery School excitedly participated in their annual sports day on the final Wednesday of term. Whilst the weather was not as warm as previous years, thankfully it remained dry enough for all activities to go ahead. The Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception classes carousel included ten activities so that the children could demonstrate to parents all the skills they have been developing this year. Year 1 and Year 2 then took part in a number of running races and three field events before finishing with the house relays.

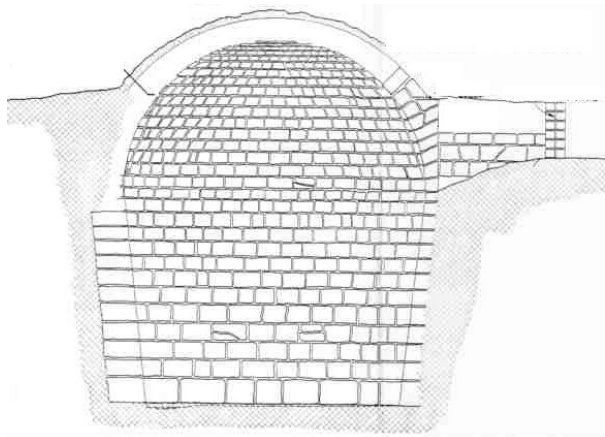
DID YOU KNOW?

CLAREMONT'S HIDDEN ICE HOUSE

Like most grand houses of its time Claremont has an ice house and ice pond in the grounds.

Ice houses were an early form of refrigeration and ensured that food could be preserved over to warmer summer months. Claremont's ice house lies on the northern edge of the valley field by the Portsmouth Road entrance. It is set against the north-facing bank, with the passage facing roughly north. The ice pond is now clearly visible from the back of the mansion after being dredged and restored in 2018 as part of the school's ongoing heritage project works.

The ice house dates from the early 18th Century and is an early example of the cup and dome type, the most common form for the period. Although now in derelict state, with a section of the superstructure missing, the ice house was granted a grade II listed status in 2007 by Historic England. The chamber is approx. 5.18m in diameter, the passage approx. 3m long. The inner diameter of the cup is smaller than that of the dome, creating an inner lip at ground level. The cup survives intact although silted up. An iron pipe set into the north side of the cup descends to the base, but is now hidden by debris. The southern half of the dome, including the apex, remains, but the northern section was destroyed by vandals in 1969. The right-hand wall of the passage stands to vault height, the left-hand wall survives less well. Sections of the barrel-vaulted roof remain intact on the ground.



The ice house appears on a plan of the Claremont estate in Campbell's Vitruvius Britannicus of 1725 and Rocque's estate map of 1738, both showing the landscaped gardens in detail. Claremont remains one of the most important early 18th Century landscapes with structures by Sir John Vanbrugh, William Kent and Charles Bridgeman. Vanbrugh bought the site c 1709 building a small villa for himself. Circa 1711 he sold it to Thomas Pelham-Holles, Earl Clare, from whom the estate derives its name. He in turn employed Vanbrugh, Bridgman and Kent to enlarge the house and lay out the grounds. In 1769 the estate was sold to Lord Clive for whom Lancelot (Capability) Brown laid out the park. He replaced the house with the current mansion. The ice house and pond, serve both as functional and ornamental objects within the landscape.



The ice pond taken in April 2018

SUPPORT US

DONATION FORM

1. Contact Details: please use block capitals (mandatory fields marked *)

Title* _____ First name* _____ Surname* _____
Address* _____

Email _____ Postcode* _____
Telephone _____

2. Donation Focus

I would like to make a contribution to:

- ☐ Bursaries
- ☐ Heritage
- ☐ Building Development Fund
- ☐ Where most needed

PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION 3A OR 3B.

3a. One-off Donations

- ☐ I enclose a cheque, made payable to **The Claremont Fan Court Foundation Ltd**, for the amount of £ _____
- ☐ I have made a bank transfer to the Beneficiary details below for the amount of £ _____

Beneficiary details: Claremont Fan Court Foundation Ltd, NatWest Bank, Account Number 41112822, Sort Code 60-08-04

3b. Regular Donations

I would like to contribute a regular gift of:

- ☐ £ 10 ☐ per month
- ☐ £ 50 ☐ per year
- ☐ £ 100
- ☐ £ _____

- ☐ I have set up a Standing Order/updated my Standing Order to the Beneficiary details below, referenced DONATION.

Beneficiary details: Claremont Fan Court Foundation Ltd, NatWest Bank, Account Number 41112822, Sort Code 60-08-04
(For international donations, please contact the School prior to submission of your Standing Order).

Signature _____ Date _____

4. Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows the Claremont Fan Court Foundation (registered charity: 274664) to reclaim tax back on your donation. By gift aiding you agree that you are a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

- ☐ I would like to Gift Aid my donation.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return your completed form to:
Krish Gunatunga, Senior Development Manager, Claremont Fan Court School, Claremont Drive, Esher, Surrey KT10 9LY
kgunatunga@claremont.surrey.sch.uk | 01372 473727



HOW ARE WE DOING?

If you enjoyed reading this latest edition of the alumni newsletter, please drop us a line and let us know what you liked most.

GET INVOLVED IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Contact us to share your story with the Claremont Fan Court alumni community or make suggestions as to what you'd like to see in future editions.

You can opt out of receiving future editions of the newsletter at any time. To do this, please contact us using the contact details below.

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