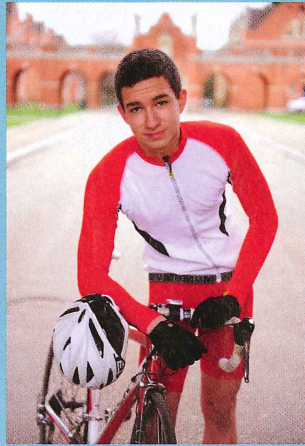


Life cycle

As one of the UK's last truly philanthropic schools, Christ's Hospital in West Sussex offers children - particularly those in financial need - the life-changing opportunity of a high-quality boarding education. So it's unsurprising that charitable endeavours are close to the hearts of both the staff and pupils.

This summer, sixth former Jake Hill will cycle 2,161 miles of the famous Tour de France to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. At just 17, Jake is too young to take part in the race itself, so he has decided to tackle the route independently. Old Blue - the school's term for old boys derives from its popular name, 'The Bluecoat School' - and friend Tim Gauntlett will be joining Jake for 1,200 miles of

the journey and other Old Blues and CH staff will cycle the remaining section with him. Currently in training for this gruelling challenge, Jake says: "I am really looking forward to it. I think it is going to be painful, but a great experience."



Head to head

Glendower Prep School for girls in South Kensington has announced that Mrs Rosamond Bowman, its outstanding head for the past eight years, is retiring in the summer. The governors have now appointed Mrs Sarah Knollys, head of north London's Maple Walk School, as her successor.

Turner, eat your heart out

Forget the Turner Contemporary, Margate's hot ticket last month was the Wellesley House 'Best of the Best' exhibition at The Pie Factory Gallery. In a colourful tribute to retiring Head of Art,

Anne Pearce, the exhibition included a seed mosaic and a mask installation. Eleven children have won scholarships to their chosen senior schools under her tutelage and eight will apply this year.



Language of success

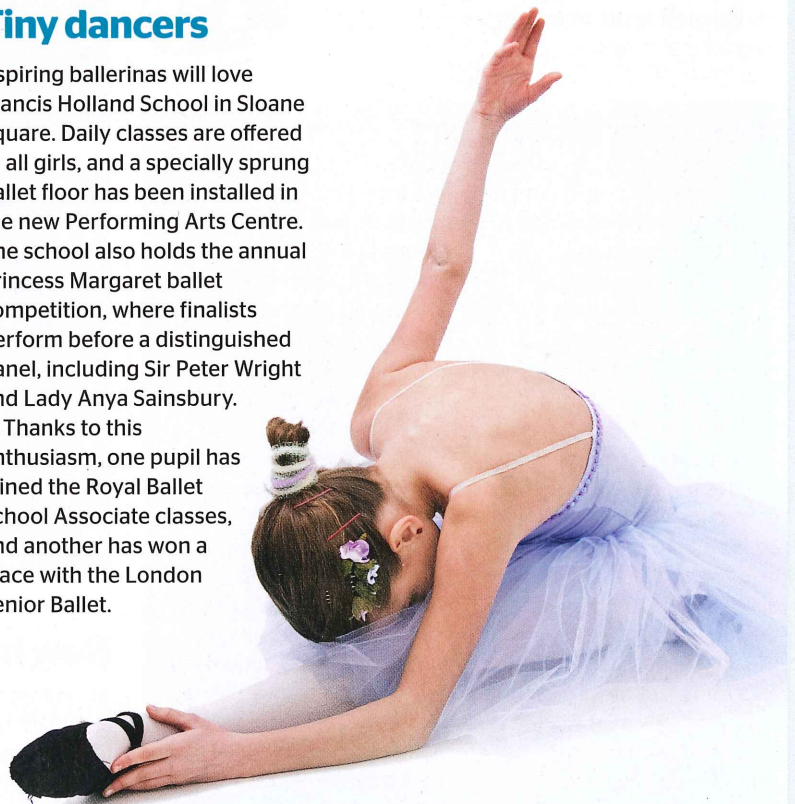
The International Baccalaureate is fast becoming a popular option, but very few schools can match Marymount International's commitment to the bilingual IB. This further qualification allows students to pursue the study of literature in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin, Korean and Arabic - providing that proficiency in their chosen language is at mother tongue level. Fifty per cent of the class of 2011 graduated with a bilingual IB and 20 per cent of students scored 40+ points in the IB putting, them in the top four per cent worldwide.



Tiny dancers

Aspiring ballerinas will love Francis Holland School in Sloane Square. Daily classes are offered to all girls, and a specially sprung ballet floor has been installed in the new Performing Arts Centre. The school also holds the annual Princess Margaret ballet competition, where finalists perform before a distinguished panel, including Sir Peter Wright and Lady Anya Sainsbury.

Thanks to this enthusiasm, one pupil has joined the Royal Ballet School Associate classes, and another has won a place with the London Senior Ballet.



All aboard

Bored with the school run? Good news then from Papplewick School in Ascot, which is extending the reach of its popular daily bus service as far as Brook Green and Hammersmith from September this year. Papplewick, a day, weekly, and full boarding preparatory school for some 190 boys has been running a very popular daily transport service to and from Chiswick since 2005. This is in response to increasing demand from London families looking for a rural preparatory school, that can offer boys more space for sports and other activities, including cooking and scuba-diving.