



Dear Mrs Hardy,

Thank you very much for your generous award. It means a lot to me to have earned such an honour, for serving the Band I have loved for so much of my time at Christ's Hospital. I have always thought that those awarded positions such as the Band Captain should have a genuine interest and passion in making a difference, as opposed to "just doing it for the buttons (on the uniform)", and I have strived to live by the former sentiment in my year as Band Captain.

One of the aspects of the Band that I think often gets overlooked is simply how often it plays. Even with the recent reduction from six to four Lunchtime Parades per week, it still meets six times a week (including rehearsals) - what other school has an ensemble of this calibre that does this?

This intensive experience has prepared me very well for my next chapter, which I am tremendously excited about. Although I have lived in Hampshire for my whole life thus far, my family is from Manchester, and I will be moving there next year to study the French Horn at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). I cannot wait to see where this takes me; I'm not yet sure what I want to do after my studies, but my course lasts for four years so I have plenty of time to work that out!

This year, I have been working on several less well-known solo works for Horn, such as John Williams' Horn Concerto, which I am thrilled to be performing the final movement in next week's Valedictory Concert. I plan to use your award to invest in sheet music, to expand my repertoire into more, similar works - such as the concertos written by Gordon Jacob and Kerry Turner.

Thank you, once again, for your support of this wonderful ensemble and this incredible School.

Yours Sincerely,
Oliver Brelsford

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