

In Black & White



CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Issue 83, 10 March 2015

From the Headmaster

Our 'Everyone's Welcome' sign (for our Open Day and Information Evening) might have needed those events in larger type. Last week a minibus load of tourists parked up outside Jacobs and spilled out, cameras at the ready. When politely asked whether they realised the school was not open to the public, it became clear the sign had been a great encouragement....



Click on the photo to read the full story then click the go back arrow in your browser to return to In Black & White.



As the new buildings are tantalisingly close to completion, we are shortly starting the 'big move' and the subsequent removal of all our temporary rooms. The buildings will be in use from the start of next term, and an official opening will follow. As soon as details are confirmed, they will be circulated. Our new memorial to Charles Upham will form a focus in the Upham Quadrangle, and is also approaching completion. A stunning bronze by Mark Whyte is finished, and is being inset into the memorial at present. We have had great help with this project from Adam Julian (parent of Jack and Sam) of Decra Art, as we have with other aspects of the new buildings. We are all looking forward to a stunning and lasting memorial to one of the College's most remarkable alumni. This work has been partly funded from the Annual Appeal; those who contributed so generously will be gratified by the outcome.

Autumn is now approaching - there is a chill in the air more often now - but it is good to see so many boys cycling to College. I will continue to repeat the encouragement to do so, whilst reminding those arriving very early for pre-school activities to wear hi-vis clothing and have serviceable lights.

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Assembly Notes

Click on the photo for the Assembly Notes



Calendar Events

Click on the photo to view Calendar Events

Everyone's welcome.

Open Day 4–6pm, Tuesday 17 March
Information Evening 7pm, Tuesday 24 March



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Each boy at his best.

[Click here to register](#)

I have spent some time trying to find the oldest reference in literature to the familiar idiom 'pull your socks up' and found it in use in 1893 at least. Certainly in 1906, the English Daily Mail newspaper had an explicit reference to our current understanding. There has also been some speculation that it dates from the 1600s, where it referred to soldiers' uniform and getting ready for action. As far as Christ's College in 2015 is concerned both idiomatic and literal interpretations fit. The boys are expected to pull their socks up as a simple matter of tidiness and self management. But the non-literal value of the expression also applies - simple things which could so easily be attended to and improved may well be symptomatic of casual and neglectful attitudes in other matters - in which case the boys could well do with 'pulling their socks up'. Of course there may be those for whom this is the best expression of independence and assertion of personal liberty they can come up with. How very dispiriting. All boys should have garters. Fixing their socks up with a staple gun, if necessary, will be charged at \$5 (per leg) added to the school bill. A cheaper option is in the school shop, and parents are asked to actively support our expectations.

A frustrating weekend at Twizel for our rowing club, as the final day was abandoned due to wind. At a very enjoyable parents' dinner on the Saturday evening, I was able to share my rough calculation that my wife and I had driven approximately halfway round the world supporting rowing events at Twizel, and throughout those nearly 40 occasions, we have always valued the time, effort (and money) parents are prepared to put in supporting their sons' sport. With such a high commitment, at times, of course, individual ambitions can intrude, but it has been rare that these have 'rocked the boat' in the way some schools have had to contend with. Rowing is unique amongst school sports, and demands not only effort, teamwork and selflessness on the water, but also a supportive and mutually respectful atmosphere off it. I thank all those parents who currently are working hard to make our rowing experience so successful.

With so much going into any of our sporting codes, there is an inevitable and appropriate desire for success. But this must always be tempered with the capacity to respect superior performance in others. 'Sportsmanship' is not some apologist attitude offered in lieu of high quality preparation, or natural ability; it is the absolute foundation of sporting contest where there must always be winners and losers. The word 'loser' has been hijacked in common vernacular - in fact a courteous loser should always be valued above an arrogant winner. Last week, I received a complimentary message about our highly successful and accomplished 1st X1 cricket team. It referred to how they responded to a recent defeat; other teams in the local competition were said to like winning, but don't know how to lose. Of course we all want to win - but when we don't it is good to hear our values are evident.

Amongst many individual successes this term to date, our top tennis team is now South Island Champions - a great achievement.

This morning, the school was shown a short promotional video for the College which is circulating widely. It supports a number of new initiatives including visits to intermediate and primary schools where our boys have been great ambassadors, along with a number of staff members. We are anticipating a larger than average intake for 2016, and we have already had some concerns from parents about entry prospects. I have been able to reassure them - our new buildings provide plenty of room!

Back to rowing. On Saturday, amongst many conversations on the lake side, a recent old boy and I for some reason got talking about the day I made the short journey into town by car and, after casually meeting a few people and clearly getting distracted, walked home. The following day I was convinced the car had been stolen from the driveway, only to find it later sitting happily where I had left it. I thought this set a pretty high bar for absent-mindedness. However, he told me about when his mother once booked their car in for a WOF; because it was a nice day she set off and walked to the appointment.....

Simon Leese, Headmaster

Parents' Association AGM

7.30am Monday 16 March in the Boardroom (top floor of the Administration building). All welcome and no risk of being given a job!



Save the Date - Livin la Vida

Please join us on Friday 22 May from 7.30pm until late in the Chapman Room, The Miles Warren Building for cocktails, silent and live auctions and dancing with live band Puree. Save the date for Livin la Vida and help support the CCS South American Football Development Tour September 2015.

Latest News & Events

Click on the photos below to read the full story then click the go back arrow in your browser to return to In Black & White.



Athletic Sports 2015

The College Athletic Sports took place on 26 and 27 February. In an action-packed two days, five records were broken. Under 14 triple jump: Cody House 11.17m...



Exchange Students

Four German students have joined a mixture of classes for the next two months. The boys are on the second part of an exchange in which College boys...



Tales of the Cricket World Cup

Help support the 2015 Christ's College England Cricket Tour by following the ink to view Tales of the Cricket World Cup auction items...



National Title for Josh Browne

Josh Browne (Harper) won a medal at the New Zealand Track and Field Championships held in Wellington over the weekend. He came first in the junior 800 metres...



The Cathedral Grammar School Visit

Year 8 boys from The Cathedral Grammar School enjoyed a morning at Christ's College, experiencing some classroom sessions, touring around...



International Students Welcome

Last weekend, Christ's College international students attended an international student welcome event, organised by Christchurch Educated at Cobham Intermediate...



Dr Faustus Rehearsals Begin

High interest in roles in the production of Dr Faustus meant a strong turnout at the recent auditions....



SISS Tennis Champs

The Senior A Tennis Team competed in the South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Champs...

Open Day - Tuesday 17 March - Change in Routine

This year's Open Day is following the format used last year to showcase our learning environment. On Tuesday 17 March, we will run two lessons late in the afternoon to allow Open Day visitors to view classes in action as they tour the school. The Open Day will commence with an address from the Headmaster at 4.00pm.

Timings for the day will be:

House meetings at 10.15am
 Assembly at 10.30am
 Normal lessons through until 3.40pm
 Afternoon tea break at 3.40
 Lessons from 4.00 until 5.45pm

If dayboys need to be at school earlier than 10.15am they will be accommodated in the Library and ICT 2. Boarders will have a later breakfast followed by time in their Houses. Some boys may be asked to arrive earlier for practices/rehearsals/meetings, and will be notified by the relevant staff.

Neil Porter, Senior Master

From the Chaplain



Chapel Service commemorating World War 1 with CCOBA

Many of you were part of the special 1 March Chapel service commemorating World War 1 with CCOBA (the Old Boys' Association), with the dramatic 151 crosses on the Quad, the choir, and the sobering reflections on war. The collection of \$1,415.30 has been sent to the

Christchurch RSA.

Confirmation

The Wednesday confirmation preparation group (open to any interested Year 12 and 13 students) has started meeting together with St Margaret's College students from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Anglican sisters (300 Tuam Street). We understand that busy students are unable to attend every time. This week, for example, those on the Geography field trip are unable to attend. Anyone seeking to be confirmed needs, of course, to have been baptised/christened. The service of confirmation is in June at the Transitional Cathedral. This relaxed group is an excellent chance to think through what life is about as students head into adulthood.

Baptism/Christening

There is a good group of students being baptised (christened) at a simple service here on Friday 27 March, in Chapel with the choir. Please note the time is 6:45pm. Year 9 students will be back well in time for this from camp. Baptism here does not make someone an Anglican - Baptism is accepted across all mainline denominations.

Lent Appeal

We have had speakers in Chapel talking about the local charity, Hohepa, and another talking about progress around Ebola and how that needs funding. These are our local and overseas focuses for our Lent Appeal which has now begun. Our reflections in Lent in Chapel will also be around Thomas Merton (son of an Old Boy), and Taizé one of the world's great gathering places for young people. Both are highly influential in spirituality.

Bible

All Year 9 students, and any students new to the school, are being presented with a Bible from the school's Bible Presentation Fund. The boy's name is in the front, and we hope that he will treasure this whatever his faith and religious position. We get to know much about what it contains in RE classes, and how these ancient stories might still have relevance to our complex life today.

I am always very happy to talk about anything written here, or in fact any aspect of our school community life.

Yours in Christ

Bosco Peters, Chaplain

Curriculum News



I'd like to come back to an issue that I addressed in this column several years ago, and that is what exactly we are doing in schools. The rapidly changing nature of society has meant a fundamental shift in what we do, and thinking about schools with the 'old paradigm' (i.e. the way we saw things even in the 1980s) may simply no longer be

appropriate. At the heart of this debate is the issue of what we mean with the concept of 'knowledge'. When I was a school student, the challenge was to 'know stuff'. That was what we meant by 'knowledge'. That was what we were assessed on. How much information could we regurgitate in a pressure examination setting?

The rapidly changing nature of the world and our understanding of it, has meant that this notion is no longer appropriate. One of the best explorations of this can be found in the book 'Catching the Knowledge Wave', written by Jane Gilbert when she worked with NZCER (NZ Council for Educational Research). Here is a synopsis from the NZCER web site.

"If this book were a film, it would be rated M—with a caution that "some viewers may be disturbed by some scenes." In *Catching the Knowledge Wave* Jane Gilbert takes apart many long-held ideas about knowledge and education. She says that knowledge is now a verb, not a noun—something we do rather than something we have—and explores the ways our schools need to change to prepare people to participate in the knowledge-based societies of the future.

Source:

<http://www.nzcer.org.nz/nzcerpress/catching-knowledge-wave-knowledge-society-and-future-education>

If this is the case, then what we teach, how we teach it, and how we assess it, must all change. 'Knowing stuff' is no longer sufficient. We need people who can take 'stuff', and think deeply about it or do something with it.

Teaching methodologies are evolving, and work in classrooms is becoming more collaborative in much the same way that it is in the work place. Some would argue that this isn't happening quickly enough, others that it shouldn't be happening at all. However change is inevitable.

A consequence of all of this is that there has been a need to change the ways in which we assess students. Assessing the 'stuff' they have in their heads is no longer enough. We need to be able to assess knowledge in a much more appropriate manner. In particular, we need to assess a student's ability to make something from the 'stuff', the 'facts' that they have accumulated.

In New Zealand our NCEA assessment framework has been the nation's answer to this challenge. The achievement standards and the corresponding assessments are largely structured around a thinking framework called SOLO (Structure of the Observed Learning Outcomes) created by Biggs and Collis in 1982. The tool is also used as the basis for the asTTle assessment tool designed by Prof John Hattie and the team at Visible Learning Labs, Auckland University which is able to distinguish between surface and deeper learning and understanding.

Some argue that as a consequence NCEA has debased knowledge, that 'knowing stuff' doesn't matter. In my opinion this is an odd construct. But NCEA assesses thinking skills. How can we think in a vacuum? We need to 'know stuff' in order to be able to think about it. So 'knowing stuff' is still essential. The revolutionary point is that 'knowing stuff' is no longer sufficient.

NCEA achievement at the 'Achieved' level simply reflects 'knowing stuff'. If the candidate can typically explain 'stuff' then he is operating at the Merit level, and if a candidate can explain and think more deeply about 'stuff', then he is operating at the Excellence level.

In my opinion there is no perfect assessment regime. However there is a good argument that NCEA is a robust system that steers us towards educational outcomes more appropriate to our rapidly evolving society.

Robin Sutton, Senior Master Academic

Boarding Experience

We invite Year 8 boys who are interested in boarding at Christ's College to join us for a 24 hour Boarding Experience, incorporating our Boarding Programme activities on 28 – 29 March.

Limited spaces are available. Please register to attend by Thursday 19 March.

To register contact Sandy Scannell, Registrar on 03 364 6836 or registrar@christscollege.com

Programme for Saturday 28 March

Arrive at 3pm, afternoon tea for boys and parents
School-based activity
Dinner
Interhouse Competition

Programme for Sunday 29 March

Breakfast
Paintball
School-based activity
Finish at 3pm, afternoon tea for boys and parents

Careers



Projects Abroad - Volunteer Programmes

Projects Abroad offers a range of two-week programmes specifically designed for high school students in Years 11 and 12. The projects combine volunteer work with cultural immersion and are supervised by full-time Projects Abroad staff. 2015/16 Summer Projects:

December 6-19, January 3-16. Cambodia - Care & Community, Conservation & Community; Fiji - Community Village Project; Nepal - Medicine & Healthcare, Nepal - Care & Community; Philippines - Building; Sri Lanka - Care & Community. contacts, info@projects-abroad.co.nz, ph 09 8890587

Blue Light - Youth Life Skills programme

New Zealand Blue Light is a registered charity and community policing programme which has run programmes and activities for young people, free from drugs, alcohol and violence for the past 30 years. They run camps throughout the year for 14-17 year olds. contact Alison Bevan. Alison@bluelight.co.nz

University of Otago - Programme changes

Bachelor of Radiation Therapy (BRT) comes into effect from 2016. Students will need one of the following: English, Maori, Classics, History, Geography, Art History AND one of Maths, Statistics Calculus, AND one of Physics or Biology. Bachelor of Dental Technology - at least 14 credits in NCEA Level 3 Chemistry and Physics. Initial entry based on NCEA Level 2 marks. Bachelor of Oral Health - 14 credits in NCEA Level 3 Biology.

University of Otago- Entrance Scholarships

The University has increased the number of Entrance Scholarships available to first year students. From 2016 onwards the number of scholarships that can be awarded are: Academic Excellence - 40, Leaders of Tomorrow - 200, Maori & Pacific - 85, Dux Scholarship - no limit, Performance - 20, Hardship - 20. Important Information. In their application applicants need to read and respond to the criteria and other directing information. There were 2,200 applications for more than 400 scholarships for 2015. Applications open in July and close in mid-August. Notification in early November.

Horizons Unlimited GAP Year Experience

What is a GAP Year? It is a time taken away from education- either between school and university, or immediately after university. A period of time out can be valuable at any stage or age to gain life skills and broaden your horizons. The Horizons Unlimited programme involves an adventure leadership programme, work overseas and travel. This programme is good for those who know what they want to do, but want to

take a break before doing further study; are leaving school and don't know what they want to do; are interested in working in the Outdoor Adventure Industry in NZ or overseas or want to create a change in direction in their lives. Ph 3840384, email: info@horizons.co.nz

International ICT Entrepreneur - Burnside High School, Friday 20 March, 3.30pm

Claudia Batten is an international tech superstar who left a Wellington-based law career to head to New York, where she co-founded Massive, the world's first network for dynamic advertising in video games. Massive was acquired by Microsoft in 2006 for a reported US \$400 million. In 2014, she was the youngest ever recipient of the prestigious World Class New Zealand Supreme Award in recognition of her achievements and her work inspiring the entrepreneurial ecosystem in NZ. This session will motivate and inspire students whether they are excited by ICT, Law, Marketing, Business and Entrepreneurship, or just the ability to combine global work and travel. If attending please reply to Tori Wilson, email cdc@cdc.org.nz or ph 3795575

Chris Sellars, Careers Advisor

Events since the last In Black & White:

Lincoln University liaison visit, Year 12
Massey University liaison visit
Latitude Global Volunteering & GAP placements

Upcoming careers dates:

Term 1 Week 6

13 Mar - University of Auckland Liaison visit
17 Mar - CPIT Nursing and Pre-Health Information session
20 Mar - Defence Forces - Year 12
20 Mar - ICT Entrepreneur, Burnside High School, 3.30pm
27 Mar - University of Otago Liaison visit
27 Apr - University of Otago - Campus experience, students of Maori descent
28 Apr - Otago Tertiary Open Day, Dunedin
1 May - Defence Forces - Year 13
7 May - Careers Expo in Christchurch, Year 12 to attend
15 May - Victoria University liaison visit
22 May - University of Waikato Open Day
25 May - Law Seminar - University of Otago
5 Jun - CPIT - Have a Go day
18 Jun - CPIT Open Day

From the Archives

The completion of the Miles Warren Building will change the view from Upper to Rolleston Avenue forever. What was the view like 99 years ago?



A photograph of Upper taken 99 years ago

A photograph album in the College Archives provides this information. There is no clue about who was the original creator, the name has been heavily crossed out leaving only the words "Christ's College 1916."

What can be identified?

On the far left School House can be seen hidden behind the wooden Gymnasium and the trees, while the recently completed Hare Memorial Building is visible above the Tin Classrooms in the centre of the photograph.

To the right of Big School with all its chimneys and flagpole is Condell's House before the Fine Arts Building was added to the west, and before it was re-named Selwyn. It obscures the Chapel, but behind it can be seen the roof line of Harper-Julius.

The wooden classrooms built in the 1880s are clearly visible in front of Big School, while on the far right is the Old Gymnasium with its attached fives court.

And what are the boys playing in the background? The flag on the touch line and the goal post suggest it may be rugby.

Jane Teal, Archivist

French Exchange to Nice

An opportunity exists for current Year 11 and 12 French students to join the long-standing French exchange between the Centre International de Valbonne Nice and St Columba and John McGlashan Colleges this year. College students would welcome their exchange partner for approximately eight weeks from the end of May and return to France in December January of 2015-16. The boys will not only have the unique experience of living with a French family, but they will also go to school and take part in excursions in and around the Provence-French Riviera region.



The beautiful city of Nice

The cost of this exchange is very competitive in relation to other exchanges available. If you would like further information about this exciting opportunity, please email Susan Harding (sharding@christscollege.com). Places will close soon in order to purchase tickets at competitive prices.

Susan Harding, Modern Languages

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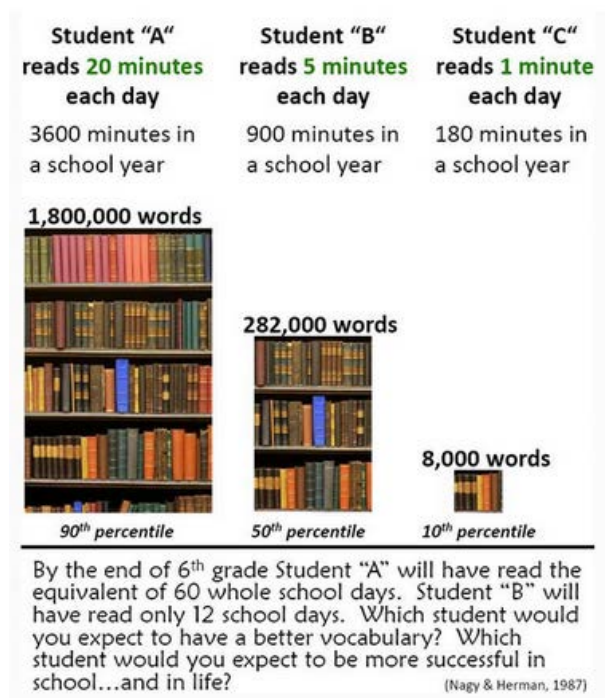
Library Matters

Engaging teens with Reading

Many of us - parents, educators, the government - are concerned and discussing how much our teens are reading and just what they are reading.

In today's digital world it would appear that most teens are reading. However, much of the content may well be social media. This isn't always a bad thing. Online activities often demand a certain degree of engagement. Your teen may be reading, writing, sharing, commenting, posting, blogging, remixing music, images and videos - it just doesn't look like 'reading' to us. It isn't the traditional novel.

But I still believe we should be concerned. The chart below, which I have produced in a different format before, clearly shows the need for some form of reading everyday.



In the paper, "Research evidence on reading for pleasure," (May 2012) commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Clark and Rumbold (2006) identify several main areas of the benefits to reading for pleasure:

- Reading attainment and writing ability
- Text comprehension and grammar
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Positive reading attitudes
- Greater self-confidence as a reader
- Pleasure in reading in later life
- General knowledge
- A better understanding of other cultures
- Community participation
- A greater insight into human nature and decision-making.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284286/reading_for_pleasure.pdf

Their evidence suggests that reading for pleasure leads to increased attainment.

So how do we motivate our teenage boys to read more and for pleasure. After all there is a big difference between reading because you have to for a school assignment and reading because you need to - that reading is like breathing air.

And that is where the library comes in. The books we buy, the competitions that we run, our displays, book talks and the inviting environment of the College library are all designed to encourage your sons to grab a book and read for pleasure.

Where can you help? Role modelling reading encourages others to read. I think we just forget and life is busy; it is far easier to turn on the television and leave it on until we go to bed. So I am daring you - grab a book, curl up on the sofa at least twice a week and read.

Please let me know of any positive results.

Lisa Trundley-Banks, Teacher-Librarian

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