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IN BLACK & WHITE

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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY
Each boy at his best.

From the Executive Principal

It has been a very good start to the school year for College. Our roll has reached 640 boys, and we are very pleased our target enrolment of 132 students in Year 9, which is inclusive of 30 new boarders, has been achieved.

This reflects a buoyancy within and without College, in Christchurch and beyond, that suggests we are on track to return to pre-earthquake numbers as targeted by 2020.

On Friday 2 February, in Chapel, we inducted our new Prefects for 2018 – and it is obvious these young men are anticipating a great year, as am I. A number of new initiatives that reflect our Strategy 2020 will unfold with more purpose in the coming year, and I am confident the quality of the College experience will be enhanced for all our students.

During term breaks I often have the privilege of representing College at meetings in other parts of New Zealand or around the world, and this year is no different. In January, I travelled to the United States and met with alumni. In the upcoming April holidays, I will head to the United Kingdom, where we will be hosting a very special function coinciding with our cricket tour, on Tuesday 17 April at New Zealand House, London. These opportunities show just how far College reaches out into the world and remind me, and indeed all staff, of how important it is to be working towards preparing our young men for a global future.

One of the most pleasing elements of any catch-up with the wider College community is the opportunity to share our plans for the future. Most significant in 2018 is our desire, through community philanthropy, to be able to move forward on our Sporting Excellence, Health and Wellbeing Centre project. This is an exciting time for College and we are certainly looking for the support that will help us fulfil our aspirations.

Interactive Newsletter

Click on the buttons and photos to read the full story.

2018 Prefects inducted at Chapel service

The whole school braved a pouring wet morning on 2 February to gather in the Chapel for the induction of the Prefect group for 2018. ...

Click to view

Assembly Notes >

Calendar Events >

Follow us

As ever, and without doubt, our most valuable asset is our staff. This year we welcome a number of new teachers in a variety of roles. Their short biographies can be found here.

As the year unfolds, I look forward to catching up with many of you at our Community Visits and other events, and encourage you to make contact with us as appropriate. After all, the College community is not only found behind the school gates, it also exists beyond.

Garth Wynne, Executive Principal

From the Chaplain

Chapel

We began the year with a staff-only day, which started in Chapel. With the staff, I reflected on how we can better be an Anglican school for all. On Wednesday 31 January, we welcomed new students and staff with a pōwhiri, followed by a Chapel service. Then, on Friday 2 February, we inducted the new prefects in Chapel.

The Chapel service on Sunday 11 February, at 7pm, will especially focus on our new students and their families. We hope as many of the rest of our school community who can make it will come, so our new families get a real taste of what Sunday services are about. Refreshments follow all services.

When you are next in Chapel, do have a look at the Piper window in the niche by the Book of Memories on the museum side of the nave. It is looking stunning. Thanks to people's generosity, it has been restored and now sits in a frame giving it ongoing protection. The circular window in the west of Chapel is similarly buffered from the stone in a metal frame, but that is more difficult to see from ground level.

Baptism / Christening

On Friday 23 March, at 6.45pm, there will be a simple service, with the choir, for anyone seeking to be baptised (or christened – the words "baptism" and "christening" can be used interchangeably). I will talk to the boys about this, but I also ask parents or caregivers to speak to your son(s) and encourage them to consider baptism. Anglicans recognise baptism in other denominations – and that is mutual.

Installation of the piper window by Stewart Stained Glass

God's Suggestion Box

Late last year, I placed a box, paper and pen in the Chapel foyer, and invited anyone to write and submit a hope, thought, or prayer. Affectionately known as God's Suggestion Box, I will be making more of this concept this year. At the start of each Friday service, the box will be placed on the altar with a brief prayer. This box is as well as – not instead of – talking to people, and is part of my trying to encourage the idea of Chapel as a place where you can just pop in and have a quiet moment. We increasingly stress mindfulness – and Chapel is the architectural reminder at the heart of our school to find the still point in the turning world.

Yours in Christ
Bosco Peters, Chaplain

CENTRE FOR ETHICS & SPIRITUALITY

Israelites in Archaeology and the Bible

At our first event for 2018, College's Director of Finance and Operations Mr Steve Kelsen will discuss what archaeology can tell us about the Bible.

Steve is passionate about archaeology and has first-hand experience in the Middle East, having worked as a volunteer and supervisor of archaeological excavations at Tel Rehov and Tel Zeitah. I hope you will come along and listen to Steve's fascinating insights into the rich history of this part of the world. There will also be time for discussion and refreshments.

Thursday 22 March, the Chapman Room, 7.30pm

CLICK HERE TO BOOK

Curriculum News

Kia ora koutou and a very warm welcome to a new College year. The holiday period is an excellent opportunity to recharge physical and mental batteries, as well as a time to reflect on the 2017 academic year.

For most boys, this period of reflection should have been a positive process, in which they looked back on the year and acknowledged the dedication and commitment they gave to their studies. For others, it may be a time in which they set new priorities and expectations in order to reach the goals they want to achieve while at College.

The holiday period is also an invaluable time for teaching staff to reflect on achievements in their respective subjects in the latest NCEA results. In a quest for continued improvement, the teaching staff have been preparing academic content and fine tuning teaching strategies to ensure each boy will have an excellent opportunity to achieve the success they desire in 2018.

Recent NCEA results have, once again, been very pleasing. Of particular note, we were happy to see our Year 13s achieved some outstanding success in gaining a number of Excellence endorsements. We were also pleased to see our Year 12 cohort achieve close to a 100% Level 2 achievement rate. While our Year 11 and Year 12 endorsement rates were down from last year, they were still above the average when compared with other decile 8–10 schools in New Zealand.

Our new Centre for Teaching Excellence and Research will be implemented this year. As curriculum leaders, our focus is to develop a world class curriculum that provides excellent opportunities for boys to be at their best. This year, the Centre's main focus will be to identify best practice teaching and learning at College, aligning it with leading current research, and developing a shared understanding of these practices amongst our staff. This is an important process, as it will be our teachers' skills, institutional knowledge and motivations that will be the key factors that enable better outcomes for our boys.

My next few articles will focus on NCEA and provide you with more in-depth knowledge about what is often considered the most complicated school qualification to understand. I will start with a brief history of NCEA in order to set the context.

I look forward to working with you over what I am sure will be an exciting year ahead.

Joe Eccleton
Assistant Principal – Curriculum

2017 NCEA Results

Excellence endorsements for Christ's College students compared with all decile 8–10 schools

Excellence Endorsement (%)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Christ's College	34.2	25.8	30.3
All decile 8–10 schools	28.3	22.9	20.2

Kokiri Māori

Many schools now offer Te Reo Māori me ōna tikanga (Māori culture and language) programmes, giving students the opportunity to explore the history, culture, language and traditions of the tangata whenua. Now, parents and caregivers have the opportunity to embrace te ao Māori (the Māori world) as well.

The Kokiri Māori night classes have been designed for anyone who wants to learn more about Māori culture and who would like to know how to pronounce ngā kupu Māori (Māori words) correctly.

Come along and enjoy learning Māori in a supportive and fun environment. Two 90-minute weekly classes, run by Kaiako Māori (Māori teacher) Maaka Kahukuranui, will be held during Term 2. Only 30 places available.

When	Monday 30 April and Wednesday 2 May (for 10 consecutive weeks)
Time	7.30–9pm
Venue	Christ's College, room to be confirmed
Equipment	Laptop or similar device
Cost	$10 per night

Register your interest by emailing
aorangimk@gmail.com

Latest News & Events

He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata

On Wednesday 31 January, one of the hottest days of the year with cicadas in full song, the whole school gathered on the Quad to welcome new boys and staff...

Cricket Live Foundation bowls boys over

The Cricket Live Foundation, created by Old Boy Alex Reese in 2013, is changing more than just the lives of those lucky children...

Take a bat, have a ball

Searing heat and torrential rain may have made conditions difficult, but the players found their own pace and rhythmt...

Chin up, shoulders back

Technology and the Internet now play a huge part in all our lives, yet how many of us really understand and can move with confidence through cyberspace?...

Burning the calories at summer rowing camps

Nearly 190 boys spent much of the summer holidays at Lake Ruataniwha, as part of the rowing programme run at College since mid...

Rugby the Japanese way

Year 12 student Zach Gallagher – along with six of his fellow rugby players – was thrilled to have the opportunity to travel to Ota City, Japan, for an intensive...

Careers

Upcoming careers dates

2 Feb – Swivel Careers, personalised career coaching programme, Year 12

15 Feb – University of Auckland liaison visit, 1pm

20 Feb – Swivel Careers, presentation for parents, OBT, 5.30pm–6.30pm

1 Mar – Your Education High School Exchanges, information meeting, 1pm

2 Mar – University of Canterbury, Year 13 General Studies, OBT, 1pm

9 Mar – University of Auckland, Year 13, OBT, 1pm

9 Mar – AUT (Auckland University of Technology), Year 12 General Studies

13 Mar – Massey University liaison visit

26 Mar – Victoria University liaison visit

27 Mar – Victoria University liaison visit

6 Apr – University of Otago liaison visit, Year 13 General Studies

10-13 May – Careers Expo, Horncastle Arena

Swivel Careers – Parents' presentation, Tuesday 20 February, OBT, 5.30pm

Swivel Careers is a personalised, in-depth career-coaching programme, designed to assist secondary school students establish their career path. Swivel Careers challenges them to look beyond their current career aspirations and ensures they walk away feeling confident they have made informed, well-researched career choices. The programme offers holistic, scientific and practical guidance for students, based on psychometrics of their academic and natural abilities, personality and occupational interests. Swivel Careers specialises in the education sector and works with both secondary schools and individual students alike. Many students have completed the Swivel Careers programme and come out with the confidence, clarity and motivation to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

If you want to learn more about the programme, call College's dedicated Swivel Careers Account Manager on 09 601 1000, or go to www.swivelcareers.co.nz

Lattitude Global Volunteering

Lattitude Global Volunteering is a youth development organisation, offering young (ages 17–25 years) New Zealanders supported international volunteering opportunities in 14 countries around the world. Applications are now open for departures in 2019, with the first application round closing on Saturday 31 March.

If you are thinking about a gap year and want to volunteer overseas in 2019, you can find out what Lattitude Global Volunteering offers at their upcoming information evenings on Tuesday 27 February and Tuesday 20 March, at Christchurch Community House, 301 Tuam Street, 6–7.30pm.

For more information and to register to attend these free events, go to www.lattitude.org.nz

Careers and Transition Education Conference 2017

Late last year I attended the Careers and Transition Education Conference (CATE). This conference always attracts inspirational and interesting presenters and, for your interest, here is a brief synopsis of talks by 2017's keynote speakers.

Ian Taylor founded Animation Research Ltd in 1990, and now it is a world-leading technology company, best known for its real-time sports graphics package – think America's Cup. Ian emphasised that the ability to think, to have an open mind, is a great gift – nothing is impossible, and the NZ number-8 wire mentality allows people to think differently, more creatively. He said the company bought its first hard drive, which cost $15,000 and had 1GB of memory, to make their first TV commercial in 1991. In 1992, the computer they used for the America's Cup was the size of a fridge and cost $500,000. Fast forward to today, and everything they could do on that computer can now be done on a mobile phone.

Motivational speaker Marcus Akuhata-Brown, founding director of Tukaha Global Consultancy, has created a number of alternative education programmes for at risk youth. He described how the glass lids of low expectation and achievement were lifted off in his life, and how through positive encouragement and goal setting, as well as having the courage to break out of his comfort zone, he has embraced a life of excitement, adventure and purpose.

Sir Michael Hill spoke about his life, which started from very humble beginnings. He talked about the value of goal setting – and challenged young people to commit to a thirty year goal, write it down, and review it regularly. Michael said it is alright to make mistakes, because if you do not make mistakes, you are taking life too easily. Meditation has been very helpful to him. He recommended taking time every day to turn the phone and internet off, because the best thoughts come when it is quiet. He suggested everyone should aim to make life simpler and, using the 80/20 rule, try to focus well on 20% of what you do in a typical day.

Director of Wellington's Te Auaha New Zealand Institute of Applied Creativity Victoria Spackman talked about turning a creative education into a career. Changing technology contributes to increased opportunities for those who can make a creative contribution to their employer's business or to their own self-directed career. The ability for New Zealanders to work in the global market has made New Zealand's creative industries one of the fastest growing sectors, and companies are looking for the next generation of thinkers to grow the industry and deliver cutting-edge creations to the world market. This means we need to get smarter about the way we educate creative New Zealanders. They need opportunities to hone their talent, to learn about enterprise and entrepreneurialism and using technology to expand their career paths. In 2015, creativity ranked 10th in the top skills for success. Of the top 10 skills needed to thrive in 2025, creativity is ranked 3rd, behind complex problem solving and critical thinking.

Chris Sellars, Careers Advisor

Do you know what you want to do when you leave school?

Find Your Career Pathway

Swivel Careers in collaboration with Christ's College welcome you to their presentation on assisting students (predominantly years 11-13) to realise and establish a career path that is best suited to them!

www.swivelcareers.co.nz

Date
Tuesday 20th February

Time
5.30 - 6.30 pm

Venue
Old Boys Theatre, Christ's College

- One-on-One Coaching
- Psychometric Testing
- Workbook and Job Suggestions
- Work Experience
- CV Workshops
- Interview Preparation
- Stress Management
- Time Management
- Industry speakers
- Creating Plan of Action

End Result for student

- Strong career direction
- Discovering options you would have never looked at
- Clarity and confidence – knowing you are not going to waste time and money on degrees/courses/universities that aren't suited to you
- Motivation to get out there and launch yourself

For parents/caregivers

- You gain an in-depth analysis of what is suited to your teenager
- You have the opportunity to get feedback from a Swivel Career Coach
- Cost savings long term

End Result for school

- Statistics provided on students

How did the students feel prior to completing the programme, did they know what they wanted to do?

How did the students feel after completing the programme, do they now know what direction they are heading?

Percentages of students who changed their minds from programme

Percentages of strengths across certain career interests school wide

"Swivel Careers is very simply the best choice if you are unsure about your current or future career. No matter what stage of life you are in, whether you are a working professional or a student their comprehensive and precise analysis of your personality and goals will help you just as it helped me. I personally was shocked at the amount of information swivel managed to provide for me and how successful they were in aiding my search for a career path that suited me best. I highly recommend them for career advice!"

Tim - Swivel Student, Wellington

swivel careers

Boarding Matters

While there are lots of aspects of a school that remain the same from year to year, the introduction of new students each year means boarding life will always be different.

The year began with our Year 9 Orientation Day on Sunday 28 January. It was great to meet new parents and boys as they begin their learning journey at Christ's College. While there was clearly a mix of excitement and anxiety, the day proved successful in terms of helping the boys settle into routines and get to know their new "brothers" in the House. I have also enjoyed catching up with the new Years 10–13 boarders over the past few days and finding out more about who they are.

Differences also come with the introduction of new staff – and I would like to welcome the following people to our boarding community. Simon Kersten and Andy Black are our new tutors in Richards House. Simon has spent time working in England and Australia, and has come to Christchurch to complete his teacher training at the Graduate School of Education. Andy has an extensive outdoor education background, having worked in various roles in the ski industry in Utah and Vermont. Old Boy Dan Sharples is a new tutor in Flower's House. Dan completed his tertiary education at Otago University and is now working in the sports industry in Christchurch. Sam Walker and Josh Tennent are our new residential tutors in School House and Richards House respectively. Sam is an Old Boy and is currently studying Commerce at the University of Canterbury, while Josh is also at the University of Canterbury studying Engineering. Current staff in new positions should also be noted. Ben Vink and Kevin Harris have taken over as Housemasters of Flower's and Richards House respectively, while Scott Franklin is now the Deputy Housemaster of Richards House, as well as the new Boarding Programme Coordinator.

Over the summer holiday there was plenty of work taking place around the campus. Of particular note, is the refurbishment of Richards House. Like on reality television, it came down to the last minute to have the work completed in time – and I would like to acknowledge the additional work that Housemaster Kevin Harris and Matron Jan Kelleher carried out in the week leading up to the boarders arriving in Richards House. I am sure the parents and boys from Richards House all agree that the renovations have made a difference to the appearance of the place. This is the first of renovations taking place in all three boarding Houses.

It is great to report that overall numbers of boarders, including international students, are up from last year. We start 2018 with 21 international students and they are a very important part of our boarding life, bringing diversity to our boarding community. One of our ideal Christ's College graduate attributes is to have global and bicultural competence, which means having the knowledge, skills and open-mindedness necessary to navigate and engage with today's interconnected world – both in a global and a bicultural New Zealand context. I can think of no better way for our boarders to develop this competence than to be living with students from around the world. In this context, I would encourage our boarding families to invite their fellow international students home in the weekends, as an opportunity to find out more about each other's lifestyles.

Finally, I met all boarders last week to run through expectations for the year and the particular aspects of boarding on which we will be focusing. I will discuss this further in future articles. One thing I said was that we are a boarding community where there should be a brotherhood of people able to express themselves freely. For this to be achieved our expectations need to be higher, and our tolerance of boys not allowing this to happen must be lower.

Darrell Thatcher, Director of Boarding and The Centre for Character & Leadership

Boarding Programme

With all boarders in over the weekend (and on Waitangi Day), it has been a busy time in terms of boarding activities. On Saturday afternoon, the three Heads of House organised a round robin touch tournament on Upper, with Flower's House winning the senior competition and School House winning the junior competition. In the evening, the Year 9 and 10 boys completed the annual Ultimate Race in House groups. The challenges included getting photos of certain things – for instance, a team photo with a policeman. They also had to answer questions on local history, as well as collect items in a scavenger hunt. The winning teams for both Years 9 and 10 were Flower's House. Students in Years 11–13 spent the evening at the Ferrymead Golf driving range testing their skills. On Sunday the Year 9s headed to Diamond Harbour for some coasteering, the Year 10s went to The Groynes to complete the high ropes course, while Years 11, 12 and 13 young men let their competitive juices flow at paintball at Ferrymead. Waitangi Day saw the boys compete in their vertical mentor groups against each other in a variety of round robin activities, including Ultimate Challenge, gladiators and orienteering around Hagley Park. The overall winning House was Richards House, while the winning mentor group was from School House. It was an enjoyable weekend for the boys and a great opportunity to get to know each other better across all three Houses.

CLICK TO VIEW THE BOARDING PROGRAMME FOR TERM 1

From the Archives: Maria is back!

It has been a long six years since John Wood's portrait of Maria Somes, painted in 1846, was hanging on the west wall of the College Dining Hall, but it has been worth the wait.

As many of you are aware, the February 2011 earthquakes caused damage, some of it considerable, to the paintings in the Dining Hall and that is the reason why there have been gaps on the walls. While all the paintings were in storage, it was decided to assess each of them as part of a long-term plan to make sure they would survive not only another shake, but also the hot and cold, summer and winter conditions they experience.

Advice was taken from paintings conservator Edward Sakowski and from David Trerise of City Art Depot. Edward then started work on restoration and conservation, beginning with the worst affected paintings. This process can take months, as each decision that is made has long-term implications.

Once the finely detailed work is complete, the paintings are then reframed with the addition of museum grade perspex. If you look closely, you will see there are very small holes at the base of the perspex. This allows the paintings to breathe.

Obviously, this work is expensive. For the last two years the archives budget has been increased to cope with one painting a year, which would make it a very slow process, if not for other assistance. The Christ's College Old Boys' Association enabled Arthur Edward Flower to be re-hung last year and contributors to the 2016 Annual Appeal made it possible for the portrait of Maria Somes to once again return to the Dining Hall.

Maria Somes' importance in the history of Christ's College can never be underestimated. Her gift of land in Lyttleton – a quarter acre on the corner of Norwich Quay and Oxford Street (TS1) and fifty acres at the back of Lyttelton (RS1) in the name of her husband Sir Joseph Somes, sometime Director of the New Zealand Company – has made it possible for hundreds of boys to receive a Christ's College education.

Jane Teal, Archivist