

# WELCOME TO TERM 1

FROM GARTH WYNNE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL



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**CHRIST'S COLLEGE**  
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

## Dear parents and caregivers

**It is hard to believe the holidays are over – where did that time go?! I had the good fortune to travel to Brisbane for Christmas with family and thoroughly enjoyed catching up with them and other friends. After such a relaxing break I feel revived, reinvigorated and ready for 2018.**

This year, as outlined in our [Strategy 2020 document](#), we will continue to embed the principles of Positive Education across all College programmes. One of the key tenets of Positive Education is to think about what went well – and our recent NCEA results reflect College's commitment to academic strength. At every level, most boys passed with Merit or Excellence endorsements and they should be justifiably proud of their efforts. A number of our 2017 graduates were awarded university scholarships for tertiary study ([click here](#)) and, for our high academic achievers, Scholarship and Outstanding Scholarship results will soon be available. I feel sure College boys will continue to excel, especially as we renew our focus on the quality of teaching and learning through the work of the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research.

Late last year, our English Head of Department Chris Rayward decided to take up a role at Avonside Girls' High School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for her contribution to College life. She has been a respected and highly regarded colleague and friend, and an excellent teacher and mentor for our boys. In Term 1, Nikki Bleyendaal will be Acting HoD, and in Term 2 we will welcome Sian Evans back to our community. After some years in Australia, she has decided now is a good time to return to Christchurch and College.

### Welcome to College

I look forward to meeting parents of our new Year 9 boys at the following events:

#### **Sunday 28 January**

**Year 9 Boarding Parents –  
Orientation Lunch**  
12.30–2pm in the Dining Hall  
(Richards House, Flower's House  
and School House)

#### **Sunday 25 February**

**Year 9 Dayboy Parents –  
Drinks & Canapes**  
4–6pm upstairs in the Hare  
Memorial Building  
(Corfe House and Condell's House)

#### **Sunday 11 March**

**Year 9 Dayboy Parents –  
Drinks & Canapes**  
4–6pm upstairs in the Hare  
Memorial Building  
(Somes House and Rolleston House)

#### **Sunday 18 March**

**Year 9 Dayboy Parents –  
Drinks & Canapes**  
4–6pm upstairs in the Hare  
Memorial Building  
(Julius House, Jacobs House and  
Harper House)

These gatherings give parents the opportunity to get to know each other and meet key staff in an informal setting, to find out more about College life and what to expect when you become part of our College community.



## New Staff

We are fortunate to warmly welcome a number of new staff to College this year. New staff always bring new ideas and aspiration.

### **Olivia Austin**

English (parental leave cover)

Olivia came to College on teaching placement in 2017 and is delighted to have secured her first full-time job with us. She gained a strong foundation of skills while training at the New Zealand Graduate School of Education and is now ready to commence her teaching practice.

### **Christine Cheesman**

English (parental leave cover)

Christine has a diverse portfolio of skills in a range of subjects – including English, Performing Arts, Drama, History and Media Studies – and considerable teaching experience, most recently at Ellesmere College. She has a keen interest in cultural and co-curricular activities that have a creative focus. While living in England, Christine took a break from teaching and worked as a Living History Re-enactor for the National Trust.

### **Sian Evans**

Head of Department – English (from Term 2)

Sian has spent the last five years in Australia, teaching at Knox Grammar School and at Sydney Grammar School. She is a renowned teacher, leader and administrator with a keen passion for learning. We are fortunate to have Sian returning to College to lead the English department.

### **Kirsty Howatson**

Biology and Chemistry

Kirsty comes to College from a position teaching Biology and Science at St George's English International School, Cologne, Germany. Prior to that she taught – and trained – in Scotland. Kirsty believes Science enables students to become critical thinkers, able to communicate, research, collaborate and make informed decisions.

### **Andy McIntosh**

English

Andy will be teaching English during Term 1. He previously worked at St Andrew's College, teaching English, Media Studies and Social Studies. Andy is a keen hockey player, representing Canterbury at senior level, as well as playing in New Zealand Masters' competitions.

### **Chris Needle**

Head of Department – Physical Education & Health

Chris was previously Head of High Performance at Shirley Boys' High School and has taught in schools across New Zealand and in the UK.

He strongly believes education is about opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Chris is also keen sportsman.

### **David Newton**

Head of Department – Physics

David also joins us from Shirley Boys' High School where he was the Physics leader in the Science department and has led work on literacy and numeracy projects across the Science portfolio. David is particularly passionate about pastoral care and has been a key mentor for many boys in achieving greater learning outcomes. David has also had two sons graduate from Christ's College.

### **Alexandra Robertson**

Learning Centre & ESOL

Originally from the United Kingdom, Alexandra has recently relocated to Christchurch after residing in Te Puke. Alexandra is a qualified ESOL and learning specialist with extensive experience across the curriculum. She prides herself on being a reflective practitioner who always seeks to improve and build on successes and is an advocate for lifelong learning. Alex has taught in a number of learning institutions overseas.

### **Samantha Stevenson**

History

Fresh from teacher training at the University of Canterbury, Samantha is thrilled to have the opportunity to begin her career at College. She is an experienced youth worker and looks forward to applying her newly-acquired teaching skills in the classroom.

### **Chris Todd**

Mathematics

Chris will be teaching for the first half of the year across all year groups. Her enthusiasm and passion for numbers was welcomed by many boys in 2017 when she began relieving at College. Chris has been teaching for over 30 years, specialising in boys' education. When she's not working with numbers, her other loves are running, cycling, training athletes.

### **Andrew MacLennan**

Mathematics (part-time)

We are pleased to welcome back Andrew MacLennan who will be teaching part-time in the Mathematics department. Andrew has taught in secondary education for 15 years as well as tertiary education for 12 years. He has had time away from teaching to run his very successful sports business *Get Fast and Strong Limited* which has involved him coaching athletes to the highest level of performance, including the Olympic Games.



## Start of Year 2018

There is always a lot going on at College, especially at the start of the new school year.

The following links will take you to a range of useful information to help you organise your College year.

Click [here](#) to see activities at College from Wednesday 24 January to Sunday 11 February. Please note, from Monday 29 January the boys are expected to wear their blazers.

The 2018 College timetable can be found [here](#). Please note, Assembly will now be held every second Thursday, which allows extra time for our enhanced pastoral care programme on Tuesday mornings.

Chapel is an important part of the College experience, reminding us of our core Christian virtues, traditions and heritage. Please click [here](#) to see key dates for Chapel services in Term 1.

We have a packed programme of parent and community activities and many interesting speakers visit College throughout the year. Our [Upcoming Events page](#) lists all the events where guests need to register their intention to attend.

Our [Calendar](#) is the best way to keep abreast of events and activities at College. You can scroll through to see what is going on, and add individual events to your own calendar.

Red Bus Ltd has now finalised school bus services for 2018. These services run Monday–Friday in term time, starting Monday 29 January. Click [here](#) for the school bus timetable that services College. For more information, contact Red Bus Ltd on 03 379 4260.

We have a number of [Community Visits](#) scheduled in the coming months. Whether you are an Old Boy, a past or current parent, or looking to join our community, we would love to see you there.

### Absence Line

For daily absences or illness, please call our Absence Line on 03 364 8676, and leave your son's name and the reason for his absence.

## Make a Good Impression

We expect our students to take care of their appearance and maintain high standards of personal care. Our uniform and grooming standards are designed to encourage self-respect and self-management and instil a sense of pride in the school.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations, as we help our young men develop key attributes such as personal excellence and values such as respect.

### Uniform

All boys should have

- belts (black) for their shorts and trousers
- conventional black shoes (lace-up or slip on) – not boots
- shirts that fit around the neck
- socks that stay up when worn with shorts – preferably with garters
- clean uniform

We are going to insist that boys keep their socks up, their shirts tucked in and their top buttons done up.

### Sewing and alterations

A sewing and alterations service is now available through the Uniform Shop, with a seamstress on site on a weekly basis. Services offered include hemming and taking cuffs up or down, replacing zips and buttons, and sewing on name labels and awards.

### Hair

Boys must be clean-shaven at all times and should make sure their hair

- is kept neat, clean and tidy
- is kept clear of the collar, off the ears and off the eyebrows
- is not dyed or gelled, tied up or pinned
- is not shorter than a “number 2”
- does not have lines or designs shaved into it, or sideburns that extend below the opening to the ear
- does not have long sections that can be fashioned into long fringes, dreadlocks, plaits, rats' tails, mohawks, top knots or mullets

There may be some exceptions to the above for cultural or other reasons. The Deputy Principal will be final arbiter of any decisions relating to hair and personal appearance.



## Initiatives for 2018

### • Wellbeing & Positive Education

Our enhanced health and wellbeing programme for students in Years 9–11 will be rolled out this year. Taught through the department of Physical Education & Health, it will also involve contributions from School Counsellor John Quinn and the Director of the Centre for Character & Leadership Darrell Thatcher. A holistic education encompasses character strengths and development, as well as the many other teaching and learning opportunities a school such as College provides. This programme goes a long way towards our goal of growing good men.

### • Pastoral Care

If you look at our weekly routine, you will notice “pastoral time” set aside on Tuesday morning from 8.25–8.55am. This new initiative will see groups of boys of all year levels meet with an Assistant Housemaster (or College mentor) on a regular basis, to enable greater personalisation around pastoral care and support offered to boys through their College journey, especially with regard to goal setting. The composition of each group will also give older boys the opportunity to be a positive and constructive influence on their younger peers.

### • Teaching Excellence & Research

Our absolute focus on the quality teaching and learning at College will be enhanced by the work of our new Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research (CTER). This initiative aims to identify all that is good in the College classroom and complement it with the best of both internal and external research findings as we constantly seek to improve. I know many of you will understand the importance of coaching in developing professional expertise, and coaching and professional development will be ongoing features of the CTER.

### • Round Square

Late last year we received word College has been selected as a Case Study School (or Research Fellow) for the Round Square and Harvard Graduate School of Education study on global citizenship, which looks at how schools support students’ international understanding and helps them develop global competencies. This is a fantastic opportunity for College. It will give us a benchmark from which we can, where needed, develop frameworks to support developing global competencies and thus enable our students to thrive in our globalised world.

### • For the boys, For our future

One of the most significant enablers associated with achieving the outcomes outlined in our Strategy 2020 document is financial freedom. We have big plans for the future and need the support of our community to achieve our goals. Our *For the boys, For our future* fundraising campaign is underway and, this year, we hope every College parent will take the opportunity to come to the functions or events where I and members of our Development team will outline our plans and explain the importance of this bold and ambitious campaign.



The beginning of a new school year is always an exciting time, as a new cohort of Year 9s arrive and the latest crop of Year 13s step up and become school leaders – and this process of renewal is part of what makes education such a dynamic area in which to work.

Our mission is *Each boy at his best* – and the best education is the sum of many different parts. College’s increasingly holistic approach, our focus on wellbeing and the development of the “whole person” is, I believe, the ideal way to prepare our boys for life. There is a great deal of research, many resources available and numerous organisations that support this approach. I would like to introduce you to one – [Generation Next](#). Young people today have tremendous opportunities, but they are also exposed to all the pressures, expectations and problems associated with living in our complex modern world. Generation Next aims to educate, empower and inform us about the fundamental importance of good mental health.