

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

“School’s Out ...” When rocker Alice Cooper penned that iconic tune – in 1972, believe it or not – he captured the impatience of generations of school children ready to cut loose and enjoy their summer break. Fast forward a couple of months and, right about now, families all over the country are gearing up for back to school – no doubt to the relief of some, but disappointment of others.

Even over summer, however, College hardly shuts down. In early December we, along with St Margaret’s College, hosted New Zealand’s first Sony Camp, offering respite care for parents of children with disability, which was hectic, heartwarming and fun for campers, student companions and volunteers alike. Thank you to everyone who took part. Our rowers headed away on rowing camps, ready to focus on the competition ahead. Some of our young cricketers took a trip to Hamilton, and from Friday 18–Friday 25 January College hosts the annual Trans Tasman Cricket Festival (there is nothing quite like the thwack of willow on leather on a summer’s day). College is also one of the venues for Bread & Circus | The World Buskers Festival 2019. In addition, teachers pop in, preparing for the new academic year, administration staff continue to handle logistics, and our maintenance team makes sure the school is in tip top condition before the boys come back.

I was fortunate to visit my children and grandchildren over Christmas and New Year. It was lovely to catch up with them, scattered as we are around the world. I hope you enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing break and are anticipating – as I am – another great College year.

Important information

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

Start of year routine 2019

[Click here](#) to see activities at College from Wednesday 23 January–Sunday 10 February. Please note, from Monday 28 January the boys are expected to wear their blazers.

Key dates 2019

[Click here](#) to see key dates for 2019, including Chapel services.

Key boarding dates 2019

[Click here](#) to see key boarding dates for 2109.

Year 9 welcome

[Click here](#) to accept our invitation to attend the Christ’s College Parents’ Association welcome to the College community, which will be held in the Chapman Room, Thursday 21 February, 7.30–9pm.

Year 10 welcome and Immerse & Inspire

[Click here](#) to accept our invitation to attend the Christ’s College Parents’ Association welcome to College and introduction to our Immerse & Inspire programme, which will be held in the Old Boys’ Theatre, Thursday 21 February, 7.30–9pm.



This year at College

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 9s, students joining us in other year groups, and their families to College. While our roll is increasing, we remain committed to maintaining small class sizes and to delivering an appropriately personalised education.

We want to help our boys identify and understand their strengths and abilities, find a sense of purpose, aspire to always be at their best, and develop the character attributes as described in our “ideal” [College graduate](#) that we believe will enable them to thrive not only at school, but also in life.

Most important to all here at College are the relationships that exist between those who make up this community. Indeed the quality of our relationships is one of the keys to our wellbeing. We look to develop these in an open and transparent way, while appreciating there will be times when we find ourselves in disagreement over actions that occur between us. In all we do we look to be restorative when relationships are unhealthy or breakdown and always place the individuals involved at the centre of our concern. College does not tolerate bullying, the ongoing and sustained harassment of another person to the point of negative emotional impact, in any form, and perpetrators of behaviour that negatively impact on other boys are dealt with appropriately, reflecting College policy. Parents and students are consistently encouraged to engage directly, as appropriate, with College about any matters of concern. College staff are always here for the College community.

We are now at the midpoint of our [Strategy 2020](#). In terms of our strategic themes and while much has already been achieved, it is still a work in progress.

Wellbeing & Positive Education

Health and wellbeing, the principles of Positive Education and a strengths-based focus continue to be important aspects of College culture. Immerse & Inspire for Year 10 students and MANifesto for seniors are now firmly embedded in the calendar. This year we introduce MINDfit, our new health and wellbeing programme for junior boys, delivered as part of the health curriculum.

Pastoral care

Our House system is the key aspect of pastoral care at College, offering a welcoming space and a place where all boys can find a sense of belonging. As a trial for the year, some Assistant Housemasters will be assigned to day Houses as Deputy Housemasters to provide extra support for Housemasters, boys and the House community. It is expected the role will be refined and continue into the future enabling growth for staff as well as greater care for our boys. The small vertically-oriented mentor groups in Houses, now established, help all boys look at goal setting, planning, behaviour and motivation, and provide leadership opportunities for senior boys as they care for and support younger students; boys mentoring boys.

Round Square

Membership of Round Square continues to open doors for College students and teachers. From a research symposium at Harvard University, to conferences in Canada and Australia and exchanges to South Africa and Singapore, Round Square is opening up our world. College is committed to living the Round Square IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Service, Environmentalism, Leadership and Adventure.

Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research

As our boys learn, so do our teachers – and that is part of the excitement of working in an ambitious and innovative school. The work of the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research is gaining momentum, with coaching and professional development opportunities also enabling our teachers to be the best they can be.

Campaign update

We are now in the final months of our *For the boys. For our future.* campaign, with our Development team working hard to help us achieve our target of \$7.5 million. Every gift counts. If, and only if, we raise sufficient funds by June, we anticipate the new Sporting Excellence, Health & Wellbeing Centre will be underway by 2020, enabling us to deliver ever more beneficial outcomes for future generations and take the first step in our ambitious campus master plan.

Community events

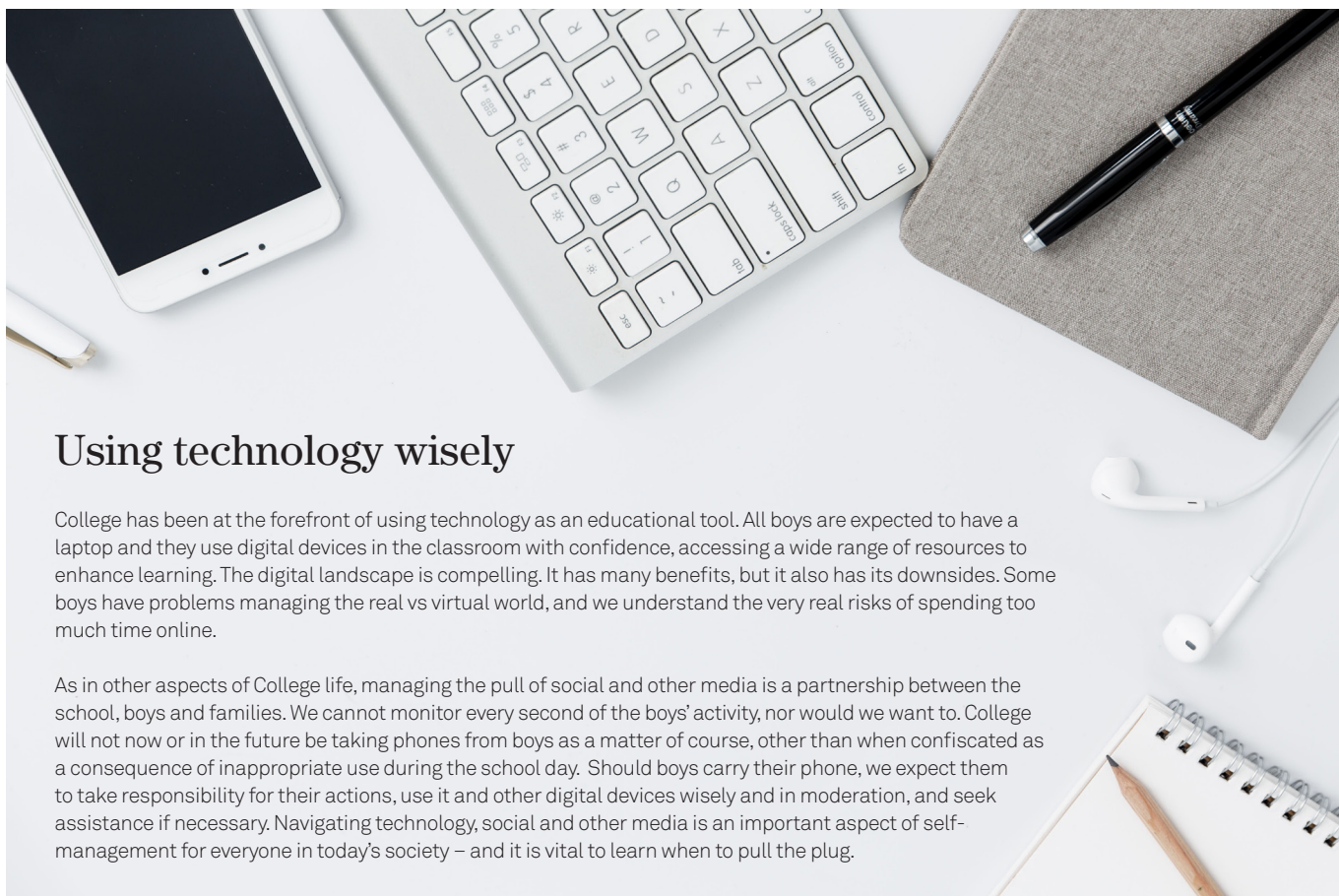
Look out for our Community Events in 2019. Dates and details will be published soon in Upcoming Events. We will be holding events in Arrowtown, Ashburton, Auckland, Blenheim, Rangiora, Kennedy's Bush, Sumner and Wellington. Whether you are a current, future or past parent, an Old Boy, or friend of College, we hope you will join us. Everyone's welcome.

2018 College photographs now available

[Click here](#) to access all House, sport, individual, cultural and end-of-year photographs – these are all available at no charge.

Create an account using the **access code s701cc18** and follow the instructions on the site to download or order printed copies.

Only boarded sports photos will be disbursed to boys' accounts.



Using technology wisely

College has been at the forefront of using technology as an educational tool. All boys are expected to have a laptop and they use digital devices in the classroom with confidence, accessing a wide range of resources to enhance learning. The digital landscape is compelling. It has many benefits, but it also has its downsides. Some boys have problems managing the real vs virtual world, and we understand the very real risks of spending too much time online.

As in other aspects of College life, managing the pull of social and other media is a partnership between the school, boys and families. We cannot monitor every second of the boys' activity, nor would we want to. College will not now or in the future be taking phones from boys as a matter of course, other than when confiscated as a consequence of inappropriate use during the school day. Should boys carry their phone, we expect them to take responsibility for their actions, use it and other digital devices wisely and in moderation, and seek assistance if necessary. Navigating technology, social and other media is an important aspect of self-management for everyone in today's society – and it is vital to learn when to pull the plug.



Make a good impression

We expect our boys 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 being part of the College community. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations.

Uniform

All boys should have

- clean uniform
- belts (black) for their shorts and trousers
- black shoes (either lace-up or slip on) – not boots
- shirts that fit around the neck
- either grey socks or our new black and white socks (compulsory for Year 9 students)

A sewing and alteration service is available through the Uniform Shop. For more information, telephone 03 364 8613 or email Ann Shaw at ashaw@christscollege.com

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. Deputy Principal Rob Donaldson will be final arbiter of any decisions relating to hair and personal appearance.

Staff news

Dr Tom Hawkins

Mathematics

Tom is a first year teacher of mathematics. Prior to enrolling in his teaching programme at the New Zealand Graduate School of Education, he worked as a professional marine biologist in the USA and New Zealand, as well as teaching in the Cook Islands. Tom has a passion for statistics and biology, he also enjoys many outdoor activities such as snowboarding, scuba diving and mountaineering.

Sally Kersey

Biology Technician

Sally comes to us after working in a similar role at Cashmere High School and previous work in scientific laboratories.

Zac Knight

English

Zac joins us as Assistant HoD of English. His previous work experience includes five years of teaching at Hagley College and a year of tertiary teaching at the University of Canterbury, where he was involved in a programme which developed academic reading and writing skills to help students transition into tertiary study. Zac loves literature and reads widely. He also has an interest in music, with a minor in music as part of his degree.

Brad Fulcher

Gap Tutor

Brad hails from South Africa and comes to College primarily to help out with drama and the performing arts – but, as with most gappies, will no doubt soon be immersed in all aspects of College life.

We welcome back from parental leave English teachers **Melissa Campbell** and **Ginny Patterson**, and congratulate **Katie Southworth** on the news of her pregnancy. Katie is stepping down from her HoD Commerce role, but will retain her role as Head of Teaching & Learning Commerce and Mathematics with the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research. Our thanks to **William Bell**, who steps up as our new Acting HoD Commerce from the beginning of the year.

Robbie McKeon

Maintenance Team Leader and Carpenter

Originally from Ireland, Robbie comes to College with over 25 years experience as a carpenter and site foreman.

Lorraine Naylor

Accounts Clerk

Lorraine is covering Janelle Masson's parental leave and will be with us until February 2020.

Vanessa Thomas

Senior Financial Accountant

A chartered accountant, Vanessa joins us on a fixed term contract until the end of June.

Former receptionist **Kerry McLorinan** has moved into digital services as our new Data Management Assistant, allowing **Jan McCook** and **Penny Whyte** to be appointed in a permanent job sharing position as receptionist.

Important information continued...

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

Parent Portal

We strongly recommend you make time to attend one of our parent education evenings to learn how to make best use of our Parent Portal on Schoolbox. These will be held in the Old Boys' Theatre, Thursday 31 January, Tuesday 5 or Thursday 7 February, at either 4–5pm or 7–8pm. [Click here](#) to book.

Keeping your children safe online

Due to popular demand, we have now scheduled a second evening with cyber safety expert John Parsons, which will be held in the Old Boys' Theatre, Wednesday 30 January, 7pm. [Click here](#) to book.

The **2019 Weekly Routine** can be found [here](#). There are six 50 minute lessons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (odd) and Friday. On Wednesday there are six 40 minute lessons, which allows time for Congers and sport. On Thursday (even) the day begins with mentor groups at 9.30am, followed by five 50 minute lessons as per the usual routine, commencing at 9.55am. The routine has sufficient time built in for students to transfer between classes.

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

We have a packed programme of parent and community events and many interesting speakers visit College throughout the year. The [Upcoming Events](#) page on our website lists all events where you need to register your intention to attend, with links to the booking site.

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.

Stationery

Please [click here](#) to access the appropriate stationery list for your son's year level. Here you can also access all other forms – for example, Medical, Speech & Drama, Music etc.

Red Bus school transport

The Metro school bus service has been confirmed for 2019. Please [click here](#) for route maps and timetables. These services run Monday–Friday in term time and do not operate on public holidays.