

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

Welcome to 2020 – and a special welcome to all our new students and staff and their families.

We begin the year in good heart, with 677 boys enrolled – well on the way to our target of 75 boys in each day House and 60 in each boarding House – and hopefully looking forward to the opportunities ahead. I am delighted so many boys achieved another year of exceptional academic outcomes across all year levels in NCEA in 2019. And, as ever, during the summer break, staff and students have been involved in a wide range of activities. We were again privileged to host a very successful Sony Camp at the beginning of December, and it is wonderful to see how much both campers and volunteers gain from this experience.

I had the good fortune to catch up with family across the Tasman and even managed to squeeze in a couple of days with my son at a rather special cricket game at the MCG! The visit was, however, tinged with the sadness of the fires that have ravaged Australia in the last few months – and my thoughts are with all those affected.

Over the holiday break, I also travelled to London to represent College at a wonderful catch-up with Old Boys and at the first ever International Symposium for Heads of Round Square schools. This event was an affirming highlight for me, as the theme of the meeting – “Wellbeing and Character Education” – so clearly reflects the work we have been doing at College. From what I saw and heard, I believe we are right on track when comparing College programmes and the initiatives we have taken

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 2020

[Click here](#) to see activities at College from Wednesday 22 January–Tuesday 11 February. Please note, from Monday 27 January the boys are expected to wear their blazers.

Key dates 2020

[Click here](#) to see key dates for 2020, including Chapel services.

Key boarding dates 2020

[Click here](#) to see key boarding dates for 2020.

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 20 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 20 February, 7.30–9pm.

over the past three years with other leading international schools. The real message was that quality schools care about the whole child and offer programmes that promote character development in addition too and supportive of academic performance. One phrase that really resonated with me as a mantra for 2020 was when one of the key presenters made the point that “wellbeing is not a spectator sport.” The College community is one of the most fortunate in the world, so my hope is that everyone within our community makes a genuine effort to be well in themselves and contribute to the wellbeing of others by disposition and attitude – and, if the going gets tough, that we treat each other with compassion and respect. A little kindness goes a long way.



Garth and friends at the London Old Boys' event.

College's [Strategy 2020](#) has been very clearly articulated to all within our community and we will continue to focus on its themes this year. We are blessed with very low staff turnover and consequently can already see the positive impact of the programmes we have introduced percolating through the school. There is still much to be done before the end of the year and as we begin to formulate our ideas for our aspirations leading up to Strategy 2025.

My hope is that 2020 will see our community more overtly discuss, embrace and pursue those experiences and attitudes that will help our boys develop the [character attributes](#) of the ideal College graduate. It is by focusing on our mission and by living our virtues in all our programmes that this will occur.



Board of Governors update

I am delighted to welcome Old Boy Hugh Lindo into the role of Board Chair. Hugh has always taken a great deal of interest in College. He is a past-president of the CCOBA and has served on the Board for 10 years. Hugh is a partner in law firm Simpson Grierson, specialising in corporate and commercial work, and has extensive corporate and not-for-profit governance experience in Christchurch and Canterbury.

Important information continued...

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

Parent Education Evenings

Throughout the year College hosts a number of Parent Education Evenings on a diverse range of topics. Three upcoming events include:

PARENT PORTAL

We strongly recommend you make time to attend one of these training sessions about how to make best use of the Parent Portal on Schoolbox. These sessions will be held in the Old Boys' Theatre on Tuesday 4 or Tuesday 11 February at either 4.30–5.30pm or 6.30–7.30pm. [Click here](#) to book.

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

In an engaging and informative way, Internet and cyber safety expert John Parsons raises awareness of the dangers associated with inappropriate use of digital communication technology and how to manage and reduce risk. This session will be held in the Chapman Room on the evening of Tuesday 28 January. [Click here](#) to book.

BORN TO BE WILD: WHY TEENS TAKE RISKS AND HOW WE CAN KEEP THEM SAFE

In this insightful presentation, physician and psychiatrist Dr Jess Shatkin will discuss why adolescence is crucial to evolution, what parents need to know about adolescent brain development, peer pressure and risk taking behaviours, and how to keep communication channels open. This session will be held in the Assembly Hall on the evening of Thursday 13 February. [Click here](#) to book.

Purposeful punctuality

It is good to be punctual, as it shows respect and helps ensure the school can run smoothly. With this in mind, please take a look at this year's [weekly routine](#), as there have been some changes. What has not changed, however, is that the boys must arrive for House time, which starts the day in a positive and constructive way. Most days start at 8.15am, but there is a late start on Thursday – at 9.20am.

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.



Mobile phones on campus

After a successful trial late last year, we have decided to continue our “no visible mobile phones” approach at College in 2020. This is not a ban on mobile phones, but it is a way to reduce mobile phone usage and encourage more social interaction and communication among the boys.

In essence, boys must not use their phones during the school day (8.30am–3.35pm) in class and around the campus. Phones must be on silent in lockers, bags or blazers. The only exception would be if a teacher gave permission for the use of phones for educational or emergency purposes.

The boys will have access to their phones in their Houses at morning break and during lunchtime, but Housemasters will also arrange “digital free time”, where both mobile phones and laptops are put aside in favour of other activities.

There are many benefits to limiting mobile phone usage and breaking a digital addiction, including a reduction in distractibility, gaming, use of social media platforms and cyberbullying. We hope you will join us in encouraging your son to be happy to relinquish his mobile phone and be more present and attentive while at school.

The *Weekend Australian Magazine* recently featured a useful article about how to make your mobile phone less addictive.

[Read it here.](#)

Email protocols

While email is one of the most efficient ways to contact teachers and other students, as with all digital technologies, we expect our staff, students and families to use it wisely and adhere to our email protocols:

- use Christ’s College email addresses for all matters relating to College
- keep your emails as concise as possible
- always be polite
- teachers are not expected to read work-related emails in the evening or on the weekend – however, they are expected to respond as soon as convenient and preferably within 24 hours



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
- short black and white socks

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

A warm welcome to our new staff

Ben Sheat

Physical Education & Health

Already well known among College basketballers, Ben has now come on board as a teacher. As well as coaching the College Senior A team, for the past two years Ben worked with the Canterbury Rams in their high performance programme. Prior to that he taught physical education at Cashmere High School.

Amanda Lester

Mathematics

For the past 10 years Amanda has enjoyed teaching at Greenwood College School, Toronto, one of Canada's leading independent schools with a similar educational philosophy to College. She has a strong interest in professional development, and alongside her classroom and co-curricular commitments plans to undertake postgraduate studies in educational leadership at the University of Canterbury.

Neil de Joux

Mathematics

Neil was an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Nottingham, England, before he decided to return to New Zealand and train as a teacher. He completed a placement at College in Term 2 2019. In his spare time he enjoys reviewing and contributing to psychology research papers, as well as weightlifting, gardening and cooking. He has also played and coached AFL in New Zealand, and is a former Canterbury and New Zealand representative.

Clair Nicolson

English

Claire has recently returned to New Zealand after two years living and working in London, teaching at Haverstock School. She has a passion for improving literacy and relishes the opportunity to come up with new and interesting ways to deliver the curriculum. Claire enjoys travel and the outdoors and is keenly interested in environmental issues.

Diwan Volschenk

Gap Student

Diwan, from Kenton on Sea in the Eastern Cape, takes on the sport/general gap position. He attended Kingswood College in Grahamstown and his main sports are cricket and rugby.

Devan Williams

Gap Student

Our Drama gap student, Devan, a graduate of Glenwood High School, comes from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. While at Glenwood he was involved in a number of school drama productions and was a member of the school choir.

Lizzie Dyer

Alumni Manager

A self-confessed people person, with excellent communication, administration and event management skills and experience, Lizzie is looking forward to further developing the already close bonds between College and its Old Boys.

Important information continued...

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.

Community Events

Look out for our Community Events in 2020. Dates and details will be published on the Upcoming Events page on the website. We will be holding events in the Queenstown–Arrowtown area, Timaru, Ashburton, Marlborough, North Canterbury, Rangiora, Sumner and Tai Tapu. 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.

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 2020. Please [click here](#) for route maps and timetables. These services run Monday–Friday in term time and do not operate on public holidays.

2019 College photographs now available

[Click here](#) to access all House, sport, individual, cultural and end-of-year photographs.

Create an account using the **access code t802cc19** and follow the instructions on the site to download or order printed copies.