

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

I trust the holidays have been both enriching and rewarding and that you have been able to enjoy the summer. I've been fortunate to be visited by all of my immediate family and to travel through the South Island. This experience makes me appreciate just how fortunate I am to live in this very beautiful country and to be a part of emerging Christchurch. I also travelled to London as Trustee of the International Boys' Schools Coalition for meetings at Harrow School and Eton College. I took the opportunity to meet with several alumni of Christ's College, both individually and at a wonderful collective event hosted by the London branch of the CCOBA. Such gatherings remind us all of the world wide reach College enjoys and the remarkable network of which we are all a part.

My thanks to all from our College community who were able to support the Holland family in late December at the funeral of our colleague, friend and teacher, Mr Tony Holland. The farewell haka from the boys was a deeply moving tribute to this wonderful servant of our school and community. Mr Holland's 42-year contribution, in all aspects of College life, will never be forgotten.

The College Board

As those of you who attended our 2016 end-of-year prize-givings will have heard from Dr Ian Town, this year the College Board will embark on clarifying strategy for the next phase of College development. This will consolidate thoughts and ideas that have been formulated over the past two years, following my appointment as Executive Principal, MMG Survey feedback, internal board changes and extensive community consultation. Board changes see two new members, both current parents, join the College Board at the beginning of 2017. Ms Mary Devine and Mr David Surveyor bring great experience and their contribution is much anticipated.

College Leadership

The beginning of 2017 sees subtle changes within College leadership with the creation of a new College Executive. This executive will serve the needs of the College community, its staff, parents and boys to enable our mission of Each boy at his best to be realised. The College Executive comprises the Executive Principal and:

- **Mr Rob Donaldson**
Deputy Principal - Pastoral Care, academic staffing and co-curricular
- **Mr Colin Sweetman**
Bursar and Board Secretary
- **Mr Joe Eccleton**
Assistant Principal - Curriculum
- **Mr Robert Aburn**
Assistant Principal - Planning and Administration
- **Mr Neil Porter**
Assistant Principal - Community Engagement and Special Projects
- **Mr Darrell Thatcher**
Director of Boarding and The Centre for Character and Leadership
- **Mrs Claire Sparks**
Director of Admissions, Marketing and Communications
- **Mr Paul Rodley**
Director of Information and Communication Technology

New Staff (at the time of writing)

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

Miss Susannah (Susie) Stewart – Agriculture Teacher

Miss Stewart's teaching experience is based in the sciences, having taught Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry and Junior Science at St Andrew's College. Susie is a keen sportswoman and is currently training for the run and bike sections of the Coast to Coast in February. Her two brothers attended Christ's College.

Mr John Quinn – Counsellor and Director of Wellbeing and Positive Education

Mr Quinn was the full-time Counsellor at St Andrew's College, a position he held for the last 13 years. He is also a director of a business called the 100% Project which works within schools and businesses using the positive psychology models and tools to ensure that they are flourishing and building resilience. Mr Quinn works with several high performance sport teams in Canterbury and oversees national athletes through High Performance Sport, New Zealand. He is also an approved Family Court counsellor.

Mrs Samantha Squire – AHoD Mathematics

Mrs Squire's teaching experience in New Zealand spans over four and a half years as AHoD at Avondale College, teaching juniors through to NCEA Level 3 Calculus (and also IGCSE and A-level.) In the UK, she was at the forefront of developing and implementing strategies to facilitate students who struggled to gain numeracy. Mrs Squire is a keen believer in the merits of co-curricular activities as part of a holistic education and has participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award Gold hikes.

Ms Katie Southworth – HOD Commerce

Ms Southworth joins us from Cashmere High School where she has taught from 2008. From 2015, Ms Southworth was the Acting Head of Faculty Social Science. Prior to this, she was a relief teacher at Villa Maria College. She has assisted with school tennis, indoor netball and also as a backstage assistant for school musical productions in make up.

Miss Emily Priest and Mr Callum Bell – Biology Teachers

Miss Priest and Mr Bell will be familiar faces as both have had teaching placements at Christ's College during 2016.

Ms Tamara Leros – Mathematics Teacher

Ms Leros will join our staff in 2017 as a part-time Mathematics Teacher. Tamara was a relief teacher at College during 2016 and will already be known to many of the boys.

Mrs Jennifer Free – Year 10 Japanese

Mrs Free will be covering Mr Everingham's Year 10 Japanese class for Term 1 (Ms Tang will be returning from parental leave at the beginning of Term 2.) Mrs Free has a Bachelor of Japanese Language including high-level Japanese communication and translation, Japanese history, and modern Japanese economics and society. She has taught at Aranui High School since 1998.

Sport Department Reorganisation

Following a review of sport during 2016, a new administrative structure has been put in place to better serve the needs of our compulsory programme that impacts on every boy and the wider College community. There will now be two Assistants to the Director of Sport. Mr Stephen Dods will take responsibility as Master in Charge of cricket and rugby and will be a point of contact for sports scholarship enquiries and sponsorship across all sports. Mr Will Sams will take full responsibility for strength and conditioning across the entire school and will assist as a mentor to our sports scholarship boys as they fulfil expectations. Both assistants will administratively support Mr Rob Clarke who, as Director of Sport, will lead our developing sport strategy for excellence across all of our programmes at all levels of a boy's ability in a compulsory non-specialist approach.

2017 Sunday Chapel

As the community is aware, College trialled some alternative expectations with regard to Sunday Chapel throughout 2016. The outcome of this trial, and subsequent conversations within the school, will mean that this year Sunday Chapel will be celebrated four or five times each term in the evening. Boys will be expected to attend twice per term, ideally along with members of their family. Special services will be conducted for boarders on the weekend of House 7s and the Clay Shoot in Term 3 and, on 12 February, there will be a newly introduced special welcoming service for Year 9, and new boys in other years and their families. Sunday Chapel attendance is an important part of the College experience and reminds us of our most powerful traditions and core Christian values. I particularly ask parents to support their son(s) and our College values by being present at these services each term.



Start of Year 2017

This [link](#) outlines the routine from 26 January to 7 February. Please review and note that from 30 January the uniform is Blazer.

This [link](#) outlines stationery and forms required to commence the College year and information pertaining to uniform, student laptops, curriculum and sports.

The Public Transport team at Environment Canterbury and staff at Red Bus Ltd have now finalised the school bus services to city schools for 2017. Those services will begin between Monday 30 January and Thursday 2 February. Please click on this [link](#) for the school bus timetable that services College. If you have any questions please contact John Yin at John.Yin@ecan.govt.nz.

The easiest way to plan your term ahead is by referring to the College Calendar which can be found on the [College website](#). This window to all of what goes on is continually updated and refined.

Initiatives for 2017

- **Pastoral Care and Goal setting**

As you would be aware, following contact between Mr Rob Donaldson and your son (Years 10-13), this year we are enhancing aspects of our pastoral care through our House system. This is to facilitate greater personalisation, help boys to mentor other boys and facilitate goal setting.

In 2017, all academic members of staff will be assigned to houses as Assistant Housemasters. We are also moving to a vertical pastoral system within all Houses. This means that within each House, students in Years 9-13 will be placed in groups of differing age groups to ensure greater interaction and so that the older students can lead as mentors.

For the purposes of monitoring academic progress and student wellbeing, each Assistant Housemaster will be in charge of a group of approximately twelve Year 10-12 students. The assistant housemaster will regularly meet with their students as a group as well as individually. Pastoral time is allotted for this purpose every Thursday morning in odd-numbered weeks from 8:30-9am. Other times (e.g. during lunch time), will be used as required. Housemasters will be monitoring students in Years 9 and 13 to this end.

House staff will also be helping students in these groups with goal setting. The first goal setting meeting will take place on Monday 30 January from 2-5pm for Dayboys and Tuesday 31 January from 2-5pm for Boarders. Each student will be allotted a 15-minute appointment time. This meeting will be for students in Years 10-12, with Housemasters meeting each of their Year 13s to review the 2016 year and to consider their directions for the year ahead. Year 9s will not be involved in these meetings on 30 January as they need time to settle into College life and are engaged in an orientation process that afternoon.

During the 2017 trial of our goal setting initiative, parents will not be involved in goal setting meetings. However, parents are very welcome to contact their son's Housemaster, at any stage, about the process.

- **Wellbeing and Positive Education**

As signalled with the appointment of Mr John Quinn into the new role of Director of Wellbeing and Positive Education, these themes will become a significant influence in all of our programmes beginning this year. It is anticipated that John will lead a three-year implementation that will see positive education embedded across programmes both inside and outside the classroom. This is an exciting initiative for College as it reflects new thinking and the use of the new science of positive psychology in all that we do as a community. In March, College will host the inaugural conference in New Zealand specifically focusing on schools and positive education details of which can be found [here](#).

- **Round Square International**

College is currently undergoing a process to become a full member of the Round Square international organisation that brings together over 150 schools across the world around the shared ideals of Internationalism, Environmentalism, Democracy, Adventure, Leadership and Service. Throughout 2017, these themes will become more overtly a part of what we do and why we do it at College. We are particularly focused on ensuring our boys become more effectively engaged in serving the needs of the wider community through a strong community service ethic.

- **Year 9 Te Reo Language and Culture and Digital Thinking**

2017 sees the introduction of two new courses in our Year 9 programme. The first is Te Reo language, which reflects College's desire to be more overtly bicultural in our approach and increase understanding for all New Zealanders. Secondly, we have introduced a course entitled Digital Thinking that will bring understanding of new technologies, coding and be a starting point for the study of computing science and associated interests.





• Year 10 Immerse and Inspire Programme (I&I)

Throughout 2017, boys in Year 10 will play a part in the development of a new programme that will be fully formed for 2018. The focus of the programme is to:

- Guide boys to a better understanding of themselves and their unique strengths and character at a pivotal time in their personal development
- In a meaningful way, introduce the concepts of character and leadership as they relate to the College experience and to life
- Allow for a service learning experience focused on teamwork and the local Christchurch community's need where boys will learn the power of giving
- Allow for a unique learning experience focused on social entrepreneurship led by the Ministry of Awesome
- Allow all boys to experience the fun of boarding and learning to live with others as a key part of their College experience
- Allow friendships to form across the College and between Houses in a new way

In 2017, one part of this programme in place for all boys, will be delivered by The Ministry of Awesome in Christchurch city entitled The Awesomely Unreasonable Lab. This experience is focused on global challenges and seeks to develop an understanding of social entrepreneurship. We know this week long experience, conducted in small groups will be great fun and inspiring for these boys as they think about their future pathways.

A second part of this programme will be voluntary in 2017, with the expectation that all Year 10 boys in 2018 will be involved. This aspect will see all boys experience living on our beautiful campus for one month. Dayboys and boarders across different Houses will live together within the dormitories of Jacobs House and be involved in special programmes delivered through the Centre for Character and Leadership. More information will follow from Mr Darrell Thatcher (for parents of Year 10) about this fantastic, evolving opportunity that will be first available at the beginning of Term 3.



The year ahead promises to be one filled with much learning and fun for the fortunate boys of Christ's College. My expectation of this community is that we will aspire to excellence in all that we do with our academic focus 'first amongst equals' within an engaged and dynamic programme. I would also ask that we communicate early and often with each other over matters of concern or points of interest. An early focus will be on grooming, greetings and gratitude with the boys. I look forward to catching up with many of you as the year unfolds, and I will be visiting many regions in early 2017 as part of our ongoing community engagement programmes.

Being an Australian in New Zealand, one of the things I was reminded of over this wonderful summer, is just how hot the sun is and how easy it is to be sunburnt. As a matter of concern for everybody, and as we recommence summer sport, can I remind everyone to slip, slop, slap and cover up. I know that staff involved in sport are always reminding boys, but my recent experience is that overcast 12-degree 'summer' days can make us forget to act to protect our skin!!

We look forward to seeing your son back at College and welcoming our new families to the College community.