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# Dear parents and caregivers

I hope you have enjoyed the school holiday and have had plenty of time to spend with your family. Although I understand holidays can be a juggle — with work and other interests and commitments — it is also time to relax, recharge, and hopefully enjoy quality conversations and activities with your children, and maybe some tech-free time.

I had the good fortune to attend the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia conference in Perth and, along with colleagues from other Christchurch schools, presented a short session for school leadership as a consequence of the terror attack on Friday 15 March. I also had the opportunity to run a College community-based function attended by a small group of Old Boys, along with former Headmaster Rob Zordan.

Term 4 is always busy – and a time when the differing needs of juniors and seniors become most apparent. In a few short weeks our senior students will go on study leave, and then be in and out of school for tutorials or study, and to sit their NCEA examinations. They will need to find a sense of purpose, be willing to take responsibility for their actions and, to put it bluntly, have the desire to finish strongly. External examinations are stepping stones along the path of skill development and knowledge acquisition. I am confident the boys will do all they can to be at their best and can assure you they will be supported by all we can do here at College.

As ever, I invite you to come and talk to me if you have any matters you would like to discuss.

# Key dates in Term 4

### Sunday 13 October

Friends of Boarding meeting

### Thursday 17 October

Boarding Awards Night

### Friday 25 October

CCPA Pink Lunch

### Tuesday 29 October

Thank you breakfast for Year 13 parents (Julius, Jacobs and Harper)

### Wednesday 30 October

Thank you breakfast for Year 13 parents (Corfe and Condell's)

### Tuesday 5 November

Year 7 Information Evening

### Wednesday 6 November

Thank you breakfast for Year 13 parents (Somes and Rolleston)

### Monday 11-Wednesday 13 November

Junior production *High School Musical 2*, in association with Rangi Ruru Girls' School

### Sunday 24 November

Chapel Advent Service (compulsory for Years 9 & 10)

### Friday 29 November

Thank you breakfast for Year 13 parents (Flower's, School, Richards)

# Green light for progress

After consideration of various options, at its September meeting the Board of Governors gave the green light for the school to explore the feasibility of building a new Sporting Excellence, Health & Wellbeing facility at the far end of Upper adjacent to the swimming pool.

Although we have had to rethink our original plans, this opens up a number of exciting possibilities. It allows us to stay within the footprint of the campus and concentrates these new facilities in what we're sure will come to be thought of as College's sport, health and wellbeing precinct.

We anticipate this building will contain two full-sized basketball courts, plus multifunctional training rooms to accommodate a

range of summer and winter sports, strength and conditioning facilities and teaching spaces. Potentially, it will also enable the integration of an environmentally-friendly campus-wide heating system, which will benefit the whole school. The Upper playing field will also be upgraded as a result of this building activity.

Consequent of the funds available at this time, this facility has budgetary constraints. Should it be approved, however, all College boys will benefit, as well as members of the wider College and Christchurch community.

I will be in touch again as soon as we have more information to share, however, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.



# Budget 2020

The Board of Governors is currently deliberating budget considerations for 2020 and beyond. This can be a stressful time, as the balance between prudence and aspiration is difficult in an environment where increasing costs are always a challenge. Over the next two years appropriate yet significant increases in teachers' salaries need to be accommodated within reasonable fee increases. College remains committed to our all-inclusive fee structure, which is overwhelmingly supported by parents. From next year, the fee will

include a Christ's College Parent Association (CCPA) contribution of \$50 per family, which will enable the CCPA to be more actively involved in College life. The main objective of the CCPA is to promote communication between parents and others interested in the progress of the school, to make parents feel welcome and encourage them to participate in events. One example of the use of these allocated funds is the CCPA's support of our House Music festival, which will return in 2020 to the Christchurch Town Hall for an evening of extraordinary entertainment.

# Strategy 2025

College's next strategic phase will look towards and incorporate our 175th anniversary in 2025, and we have already started to plan what that will mean for our community. The Board of Governors, members of the Executive team, and all staff have begun to think about what that might mean for a College education in the medium term. We have already reaffirmed our aspiration

to encourage and support each boy to be at his best and to equip him with those skills and attributes outlined in our ideal graduate profile. Our wider community will also have the opportunity to contribute to this conversation and I encourage you to get involved. We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please email your comments and suggestions to strategy175@christscollege.com

# **MMG** Survey

Years 10, 12 and 13 students and their parents recently completed our latest MMG Survey, and I would like to thank all who responded for their support and feedback. Our response rates were excellent, with 70% of parents taking part. The beauty of this survey is that it provides us with direct College-specific feedback and then benchmarks our practice against schools across Australasia. When I receive the report, I will share the highlevel findings and outcomes with you.

# **End-of-year Routine**

### Friday 1 November

Senior students go on study leave

### Friday 8 November-Tuesday 3 December

NZQA examinations

### Thursday 28 November

Junior prize-giving, 3pm

### Thursday 28 November

Carols on the Quad, 6pm

### Friday 29 November

Senior prize-giving, 5.30pm

### Friday 29 November

Leavers' service, 7pm

### Friday 29 November

Function for parents of 2019 leavers, 7.30pm

### Saturday 30 November

Leavers' Ball (parents and students), 7.30pm

# Leaving?

If your son does not plan to return to College in 2020, please let us know in writing or via email by the end of Week 1, Term 4. Later notice will incur fees for Term 1, 2020.

For more information, please contact Admissions Registrar Sarah Fechney - registrar@christscollege.com

### Staff News

Condell's Housemaster Tony O'Connor went on leave in April to coach the New Zealand Men's rowing eight and has since resigned to take up a position with Rowing NZ. Tony first came to College as a Mathematics teacher and Head of Rowing in 2005, staying until 2012. He returned in 2015, stepping into the role of Condell's Housemaster and assisting with the development of the rowing programme. A former international rowing representative for his native Ireland, he is no stranger to the pressures faced by rowers competing at elite level and aims to take the squad to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. We wish him well for this exciting move. His deputy Alexandra Robertson will be the next Condell's Housemaster, a position she is familiar with as she has looked after the House very capably in Tony's absence.

Following the resignation of Chloe Harland who is focusing on family at this stage in her life, English and Classics teacher Olivia Austin has been confirmed as a permanent member of the teaching staff from next year. Head of Physical Education Chris Needle is taking a year's leave in 2020. Physical Education teacher Henry Smith will become Acting HoD, and Senior A basketball coach Ben Sheat will join College as a teacher from the beginning of next year. English teacher Melissa Campbell has been appointed Head of Teaching & Learning Humanities and English in the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research. New Digital Services Technician Ben Smith has joined the team. And, last but not least, we welcome Head of Biology Dr Graeme Swanson back from sabbatical leave.

# Let's keep talking about porn

One of our most successful parent education evenings in 2019 was the presentation by Maree Crabbe, who spoke to our community about the significant and disturbing impact of the ubiquitous spread of pornography and its availability to young people. As many of you will be aware, TEDx Christchurch, an event that has been hosted at Christ's College in the past, recently celebrated ten years in the city by staging a hugely successful event at the Town Hall. One of the brilliant speakers on the day was Jo Robertson, Research and Training Lead for The Light Project, a charitable trust equipping youth, whānau and professionals to navigate the new porn landscape. Jo addressed all sorts of issues associated with pornography and talked about the need for us to keep the conversations going with our children. Can I encourage you, no matter what age or stage your son may be at, to watch Maree's inspiring and provocative talk here. College is working to develop its educational programmes related to this issue both through our Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing programmes, and MINDfit and MANifesto.

# Student Leaders 2020

Every year they have some big shoes to fill, but year after year we find many fine young men willing to step forward and take on leadership roles. Congratulations to our 2020 prefects, we look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Head Prefect - Dominic Edmond

Deputy Head Prefect - Louis Gunn

Head of Boarding - Sam Averill

## **Heads of Houses**

Condell's - Fletcher Anderson

Corfe - Ben Young

Flower's - Jarrad Hill

Harper - Josh Wynne

Jacobs - Josh Johnston

Julius - Kynan Salt

Richards - George Simpson

Rolleston - William Koko

School - Guy Chaffey

Somes - Charlie Chubb

Head of Academic - John-Paul Lay

Head of Arts & Culture - Jamie Yee

Head of Character & Leadership – Jack Drage

Chapel Prefects – Ederick He and Henry Eglinton

Head of Environment - John Wong

Head of Chapel Choir - Thomas McClean

Head of International & Round Square - Angad Vraich

Head of Service - Josh Mortensen

Head of Sport - Kyle Houston

Head of Wellbeing – Lachy Kitchen

# Summer Uniform (Terms 4 and 1)

A reminder: All students are expected to wear summer uniform when they return to school.

The summer uniform consists of dark grey walk shorts with a black belt and short black socks with two white stripes (the long grey socks are being phased out this year). When sleeves are rolled up, they must be rolled up neatly above the elbow.

Students must wear blazers to Chapel on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and to assembly. Suits are to be worn to Sunday Chapel and to prize-giving.