

WELCOME TO TERM 4

FROM GARTH WYNNE, EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL



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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers

It has been a busy few weeks. I have just returned from Brisbane, where I was delighted to meet my newly-minted granddaughter, Abigail. Prior to that, I had four days in Palmerston North where I saw our Senior A basketball team come fourth in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Nationals. The boys did College proud.



And at the end of September, I attended the combined Heads of Independent Schools of New Zealand and Australia conference, held in Queenstown. This was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with colleagues and also to consider some of the issues facing independent schools. Of a number of speakers, the most interesting was Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the OECD. Andreas presented on the subject of trend learnings derived from PISA testing since the early 2000s. His insights were significant for both the Australian and New Zealand educational systems and gave us much to consider – in particular, his challenges for curriculum design, which should reflect:

- Rigour, focus and coherence
- Remain true to the disciplines
 - but aimed at inter-disciplinary learning and the capacity of students to see problems through multiple lenses
 - balance knowledge of disciplines and knowledge about disciplines
- Authenticity
 - thematic problem-based, project-based
 - curriculum co-created in conversations across disciplines

Meeting these challenges will be at the forefront of the work of the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research, which we have created to ensure our teaching and learning reflects the needs of our students as they prepare to face the future.

Strategy in action

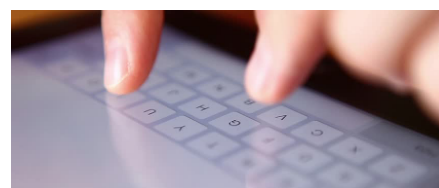
On Friday 13 October, Dr Mathew White returns to College to work with all staff on the specific theme of strengths as it refers to our strategy of implementing Positive Education practice throughout College. Together we will focus on elements of our graduate characteristics and how, as we move towards 2020, we can enable growth. Mathew will also introduce ways in which character strengths can impact upon teaching and learning here at College, as we strive to bring each boy to his best. If you are interested in Positive Education, I recommend you take a look at the International Positive Education Network website ([IPEN](http://ipen.org)).





MMG survey

Towards the end of Term 3, parents and students from Years 10, 12 and 13 were asked to participate in what will become an ongoing annual process for feedback and review. To avoid "survey fatigue", this survey is not taken by all year groups. It also acts as an exit survey for Year 13 boys and families. The information gained from trends observed and feedback received have significant impact on both annual and strategic planning. A detailed analysis of the results of this survey, compared to that conducted in 2016, will be presented first to the Board and then shared, as appropriate, with the wider community. My thanks to all parents and boys who took part, your input is valuable and much appreciated, and will make a tangible difference to our programmes and the College experience.



End-of-year routine

The end is nigh. Senior students go on study leave on Friday 3 November and NZQA and Scholarship examinations take place from Thursday 9 November to Friday 1 December. I would like to acknowledge our Year 13 students, who have such a short time left in their College journey. In a range of different ways, 2017 has been a most successful year – and this has very much been a consequence of the general tone and direction set by our Year 13 group. I wish them every success in this final phase of school life and trust their aspirations and hopes for the future will be fulfilled.

We have made a number of minor adjustments to the end-of-year routine to accommodate students who have examinations on Friday 1 December, our last day of the year. The end-of-year timetable will now run as follows, and we do expect affected students to attend these school events.

Thursday 30 November

- 3pm Years 9 and 10 prize-giving – Assembly Hall
- 3.45pm Afternoon tea for prize winners and parents/guardians
- House functions – various venues
- 6pm Carols on the Quad – whole school event
- Juniors finished for the year

Friday 1 December

- 10.30am Senior prize-giving – Assembly Hall
- 12pm Year 13 and parents/guardians lunch – the Quad
- 1pm Year 13 Leavers' Service – College Chapel
- Seniors finished for the year

In addition to the above, please note these other Calendar Events for Term 4:

- 27 Oct Parents' Association Pink Lunch
- 7 Nov Year 7 Information Evening
- Information for boys starting College in 2019
- 23 Nov Thought Leader – Dr Nicholas Kardaras
- 26 Nov Chapel Advent Service – 7pm



Staff changes

Ms Lucile Fontaine-Berger

We welcome Lucile Fontaine-Berger, who will be providing cover while Teryl Yogeewaran is on parental leave. Lucile's teaching experience spans seven years across all levels. She has taught at a boys' school in England and had two years in Mexico. She has a high command of the Spanish language and is committed to promoting the importance of international links and the ability to communicate in a language other than English to support the future of global citizenship.

Ms Rachel Adams

We are pleased to advise Rachel Adams has accepted our offer to extend her contract to continue teaching History during Term 4.

Mr Brian Le Vaillant

After 43 years of service, College legend Mr Brian Le Vaillant will retire at the end of 2017. Brian's commitment over this period has been to every aspect of school life and his departure signals the end of an era. Members of the school community are invited to a special event to farewell Brian, upstairs in the Poppy Bar at the RSA, 74 Armagh Street on Friday 10 November, from 5pm.

Resignations

Arthur McGregor - *Physics, Science and Technology*

Susie Stewart - *Agriculture and Horticulture, Chemistry and Biology*

Kristi Gray - *College Writer*

Thought Leader – Dr Nicholas Kardaras

Dr Nicholas Kardaras is an internationally renowned speaker and one of America's foremost addiction experts. He is the author of *Glow Kids: How Screen Addiction Is Hijacking Our Kids* – and *How to Break the Trance*, which will be the theme of his presentation on Thursday 23 November, Old Boys' Theatre, 7pm. This is the final Thought Leaders presentation for 2017. I hope you will take this opportunity to hear Dr Kardaras and have enjoyed our diverse range of speakers throughout the year.

I wish you all the very best for Term 4, 2017. As always, please be in touch if you have any queries or concerns.