

# WELCOME TO TERM 1



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**CHRIST'S COLLEGE**  
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

## Dear parents and caregivers

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### Ngā mihi o te tau hou.

Mauri ora e te whānau, and a very warm welcome back to Christ's College for the 2025 academic year. I trust that you and your families are well and that you've enjoyed a restful holiday season.

As we embark on our 175th year as an educational institution, I reflect with gratitude on the many individuals who have come before us, each contributing to the success, identity, and enduring legacy of College. To mark this milestone (1850–2025), we will host an initial series of events from 13–16 February. First, the opening of the College Museum, a significant project that Old Boy and architect Alec Bruce and archivist Jane Teal have led. Our generous 2023 Annual Appeal donors have made the museum possible. It will showcase our incredible 175 years of history, and be accessible to our boys and community.

The Cocktail Party – hosted in Upper West – follows on Friday 14 February, and the Black & White Dinner on Saturday evening. The Celebratory Weekend wraps up with a special Chapel service, school tours, and a lunch for the CCOBA reunion attendees. To mark the milestone, each boy will receive a commemorative 175th badge and be part of the whole school five-year photo. The boys will also be given a copy of our College history book later in the year. The book, written by our own Warren Lidstone, chronicles the past 25 years of College.

### Important information

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

#### Start of year routine 2025

[Click here](#) to see the activities at College from 24 January–9 February.

#### Key dates 2025

[Click here](#) to see key dates for 2025.

#### Key boarding dates 2025

[Click here](#) to see key boarding dates for 2025.

#### Year 9 parents welcome to Christ's College

Year 9 parents are invited to meet their sons' teachers at an informal gathering, followed by drinks and canapés hosted by the Christ's College Parents' Association. Thursday 27 February, 5–8pm. [Register here.](#)

#### Year 10 families – Immerse & Inspire programme

Year 10 families are invited to join us for an introduction to our Immerse & Inspire programme, followed by drinks and canapés hosted by the Christ's College Parents' Association. Thursday 13 February, 7–8.30pm. [Register here.](#)

There will be several other special events throughout the year, including on our actual birthday which coincides with the launch of our senior production, *Shakespeare in Love*. A joint production with Rangī Ruru Girls' School, it is also the New Zealand premiere for the play. Meanwhile, we will host the much anticipated Quadrangular Rugby Tournament in late June and the annual College vs CBHS rugby fixture. Starting the year in style, we have also hosted the Trans-Tasman Cricket Festival.

The holiday break has provided the opportunity to renew our energy, focus, and commitment to providing a world-class education for nearly 740 boys. While this year offers a chance to reflect on our proud history, it is equally a time to look forward and craft the next chapter of College. We are steadfast in our commitment to fostering an environment that – through the lens of our Anglican Virtues – equips our boys with the knowledge, skills, and character strengths necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Honesty, Learning, Spirituality, Respect, Compassion, Stewardship, and Justice are the foundations of our community and the guiding virtues that shape the way we operate. When we actively live by these virtues, we create an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment where our boys are empowered to reach their full potential. When we get it right as a community, we have the power to transform lives and, in doing so, shape the future of our society. This is why education matters. It is the reason we, as educators, do what we do. It is our *raison d'être*.

I would also like to congratulate our senior boys on their NCEA results. Released in mid-January, these reflect yet another year of solid performance. They are a testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment, as the boys make the most of the invaluable opportunities provided by College to pursue their chosen pathways.

In an increasingly competitive workforce, where high-functioning skills are essential, the role of education has never been more critical. While some may argue that qualifications are overrated, research consistently shows a direct link between higher qualifications and improved living standards, as well as enhanced wellbeing. For those students who may feel disappointed with their individual results, the beginning of this new academic year provides an ideal opportunity to reflect, regroup, and refocus on their goals, ensuring that this year will be a better one.

I am also looking forward to working closely with our new Board Chair, Jeremy Johnson, and his fellow Governors as we continue to shape the future of Christ's College. Our focus will remain on what is in the best interests of our boys, ensuring that we provide them with the opportunity to leave our gates equipped with the intellect, character, and confidence to make a meaningful difference in their communities and the wider world.

I look forward to seeing you around College or at one of our upcoming community events.



## Important information continued...

### Years 11–13 parents welcome back

Welcome to 2025. Please join us as we gather to make the most of an opportunity to mix and mingle and celebrate another year at College.

Wednesday 19 February, 7–8.30pm

[Register here.](#)

### Parent Education Evenings

Throughout the year, Christ's College hosts several Parent Education Evenings covering a diverse range of topics. Our upcoming events include:

#### Making use of the Parent Portal

Tuesday 4 February, 6–7pm, Old Boys' Theatre. [Register here.](#)

### Diploma Information Evening for parents of Years 10–11 students

Learn more about our Christ's College Diploma curriculum programme, with a presentation from Acting Deputy Principal – Teaching & Learning Katie Southworth and Diploma coordinator Andrew Levenson. Wednesday 5 March, 7–8pm, Chapman Room.

[Register here.](#)

### NCEA Information Evening for parents of Years 12–13 students

Designed to inform parents new to NCEA about the qualification, Acting Deputy Principal – Teaching & Learning Katie Southworth will explain the qualifications framework, assessment types, assessment practice, and other useful information regarding NCEA.

Wednesday 19 February, 6–7pm, Chapman Room. [Register here.](#)

### Community Visits

Look out for our Community Visits in 2025. All the dates and details will be published on the [Upcoming events](#) page on the College website. We will be holding events in North Canterbury, Sumner, Tai Tapu, Selwyn, Lincoln and Southern Lakes. Whether you are a current, future or past parent, an Old Boy, or a friend of College, we hope you will join us. Everyone's welcome.

### College Calendar

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



## Jeremy Johnson KSM – Christ's College Board of Governors Chair

E oku tuakana, e aku tuahine, te whānau Whānui o Te Kāreti o te Karaiti, kia tau ngā manaakitanga me ngā atawhainga katoa o tō tātau nei Atua ki runga i a tātau katoa.

It is a privilege to be writing to you as the 21st Board Chair (formerly sub-warden) of College, having taken office after the last board meeting of 2024. I am mindful that my predecessors include people – such as the Reverend Henry Jacobs, Sir George Harper, Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes, and Julian Holderness – who spent a significant portion of their lives serving College.

Included in that list is my immediate predecessor, Hugh Lindo. For more than 25 years, Hugh has served College as, variously, CCOBA committee member and President during the earthquakes, College solicitor, Board member for 11 years, and Chair for five.

During his time as Chair, Hugh continued his history of excellent service – notably by leading the College response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, and leading the recruitment of Joe Eccleton as Executive Principal. Thank you, Hugh, for all you have done.

As College enters its 175th year, it is a school in very good heart, with an outstanding Principal and staff and boys who somehow achieve more each year. The founders of our school would be delighted in so many ways with the flourishing of College.

In saying that, College faces a challenging environment in many ways. We continue to have constrained finances and significant costs associated with our heritage campus. However, those challenges can, and will be, met by us.

In 2025, we will be prioritising the development, with Joe Eccleton and his team, of a new strategic plan for 2025–2030. We will also be focusing on certain operational priorities focused on our academic programme, character education, financial performance, and administrative processes.

We will also be updating the way we report to our community. College is a unique institution, founded by deed and governed, in part, by Acts of Parliament, and with the Board acting as legal owner. The reality, though, is that College is owned by its community – Church, Old Boys, and parents – and, as a Board, we want to more clearly acknowledge that in our reporting.

What will remain unchanging is our commitment to College's core identity. We are committed to ensuring College is New Zealand's leading independent secondary school for boys – achieved through commitment to our Anglican faith, academic rigour, co-curricular excellence, and the health and wellbeing of the boys in our care.

### NCEA

Congratulations to those students who completed their NCEA Levels 2 and 3 qualifications at the end of last year. There are many fantastic individual results. In particular, we would like to wish our 2024 leavers the very best as they embark on the next steps in their journeys – be that tertiary, employment, trade or travel.

Just a reminder that access to individual results, papers, and cut scores is via the 'student hub'. It can be found on the NZQA website once boys have logged in. The student hub also has information relating to the returning of

## Important information continued...

### Upcoming events

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

### Boarding Facebook page

To connect with other parents of boarders and share and promote boarding House activities and events, [click here](#) to go to the Boarding Facebook page.

### Absence process

From a legal and health and safety perspective, we are required to know where students are at all times. As such, our process for reporting absences is vital. If your son is away from College for any reason, you must notify the school before 8.15am. You can phone the College Absence Line – 03 364 8676. You can also contact your son's Housemaster. If you follow this process, our Attendance Officer will not have to contact you directly regarding your absent son.

### Stationery

Please [click here](#) to access the appropriate stationery list for your son's year level. (You can also access all other forms – for example, medical, Speech & Drama, Music etc.) Stationery orders for Years 10–13 are made through OfficeMax. [Click here](#).

## Reminder... 2024 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 y402cc24**, and follow the instructions on the site to order printed copies.

papers, should a student seek an exam reconsideration. Final results will be available later in Term 1.

Although not an NCEA qualification, the co-requisites are NZQA assessments that are required in order to gain the Level 2 and 3 certificates. At the end of 2024, of the 145 Year 10 students who sat the numeracy co-requisite, 93.79% passed it on the first attempt.

Additionally, 99% of Year 11 students had passed the co-requisite reading and 97% the writing assessment by the end of the year.

\*\*Students only complete the numeracy assessment in Year 10. The literacy assessment is sat in Year 11.

### Student Care

Welcome back to 2025. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Josh Kim into his role as Julius Housemaster. I also want to acknowledge the recent passing of Julius Old Boy Joey Young. Please let us know if your son had a connection to Joey and where we can help to coordinate counselling support.

### Electric Avenue 21–22 February

With this music festival now being held over two days in North Hagley Park and the high numbers expected to attend, there will be changes to routines for boarders and dayboys.

As many families will be aware, the disruption to the boarding Houses is significant. As a consequence, we have decided to close Flower’s House, Richards House, and School House. While boarders will be able to stay in Jacobs House over the two days, we strongly encourage families to take their children home or move them to a friend’s house. We have found that the restrictions on our students’ access to the campus and the impact on their sleep during Electric Avenue have been significant.

We are changing the routine for the day on Friday 21 February, with all boys now finishing school at 1pm.

Further details will be sent to parents.

### Athletics Day

Please note that the Christ’s College Athletics Day will be held on Friday 14 February at Ngā Puna Wai. This is a week earlier than the previous year.

### Dining Hall lunches – dayboys

We have limited places available for dayboys to have lunch in the Dining Hall from Monday–Friday. Lunch will be served from Thursday 30 January and cost \$14 per day. You need to commit to a full term – five days per week – so that we can confirm numbers and catering requirements with the kitchen staff. Lunches will be charged to your son’s account. Please [register here](#) for dayboy lunches in the Dining Hall.

### Child Protection Policy

Fundamental to schools is child protection and safety and, with this in mind, this year, as a normal part of our professional learning cycle, all College staff will undergo further training with the respected New Zealand-based organisation Child Matters.

This training is part of being employed at the school and provides confidence for parents that our staff are informed and proactive in recognising and reporting any signs of child mistreatment, both within and beyond the school. This training also reminds all staff of their professional obligations in relation to their appropriate conduct and boundaries, both while in school and beyond, when engaging with children and reinforces policies College has had in place for several years. Throughout the year, students will again have sessions that match those of the staff so that our culture of safety and reporting is maintained as part of the College experience.

Child Matters is a trusted advisor to the school on policy and practice as it relates to child protection. Please view our [Child Protection Policy here](#).



**Christ's College Community Visits**

Everyone's welcome.

Tuesday 18 February – North Canterbury  
 Tuesday 25 February – Sumner  
 Thursday 6 March – Southern Lakes  
 Thursday 20 March – Tai Tapu, Selwyn, and Lincoln

[Register now](#)



## Make a good impression

We expect all boys to take care of their appearance and maintain high standards of personal care. Our uniform and grooming standards 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. We want to begin the year well and highlight that unless boys have a couple of haircuts per term, a school-enforced absence may result. Housemasters are the first port of call regarding the standards outlined below, and we ask that parents and students act on their advice.

### 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.

### New Uniform Shop hours

The Uniform Shop is open one week before Term 1 starts, Monday–Friday, 10am–4pm.

Until Monday 3 February:

- Monday 10am–4pm
- Tuesday 10am–4pm
- Wednesday 10am–4pm
- Thursday 10am–4pm
- Friday 10am–2pm

From Tuesday 4 February and the rest of Term 1:

- Monday 10am–4pm
- Tuesday 10.30am–4pm
- Wednesday 10am–4pm

The first week of every term, the Uniform Shop will be open for two extra days:

- Thursday 10am–4pm
- Friday 10am–4pm

The Uniform Shop now stocks the Clarks school shoe (\$159.99).



The Uniform Shop can be contacted via telephone on 03 364 8613 or email the Uniform Shop Manager at [uniforms@christscollge.com](mailto:uniforms@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 – Planning & Co-curricular Darrell Thatcher will be final arbiter of any decisions relating to hair and personal appearance.

Any boy not meeting the guidelines will be sent to the barber for a haircut, with the cost being added to your account. This includes trimming fringes, a common issue.

**WASS'**  
EST 1998  
**BARBERS**  
BY WASSEIM SATI

Wass' Barbers will be at College on  
**Monday 27 January 9–11.15am**  
**Tuesday 28 January 8.30am–5pm**

to ensure that boys have a stylish cut for the new year. All haircuts will be disbursed to College accounts.

**Haircut – \$35**  
**Fringe – \$10**



## Staff farewells

We farewell several significant staff members who have all made highly valued contributions to Christ's College and the development of our boys.

Long-serving Director of Music Robert Aburn has decided to retire at the end of Term 1. We have been fortunate to have Robert with us for more than 20 years, leading the wide-ranging success of our music programme and overseeing our globally recognised choirs. Meanwhile, College Music teacher Hugo Zanker will step into the role of Acting Head of Department – Music and Director of Music for Term 1. Hugo will oversee the curricular and co-curricular aspects of the music programme. With his extensive experience as an HOD at his previous school, I am confident that he will perform this role exceptionally well. We expect the curricular and co-curricular programmes to continue seamlessly during this transition. Our recruitment process for a permanent replacement is under way.

Director of Finance & Operations Rob McFarlane also leaves us this term. A member of the College Executive, Rob has played an integral role in the development of College since 2018, particularly the opening of Upper West and a range of campus improvements. Finance Manager Len van Hout also leaves College, having stepped in to cover parental leave in late 2023. We appreciate his efforts over the past 15 months.

Long-standing Art teacher Kate Belton has resigned, having helped many boys to develop their artistic skills for nearly 19 years and holding a core role in the Art Department.

Graphic designer and marketing assistant Melissa Hogan is now on parental leave. We look forward to welcoming Melissa back to College in 2026. Sarah Moore is stepping into the role this year.

## New sports convenors

Three new specialist sports convenors have been appointed to develop and enhance leading sports at Christ's College. The new Assistant Director of Sport – also responsible for rugby – will be announced on 4 February.

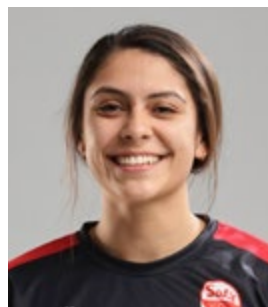


### **Keryn Ambler**

*Cricket and Hockey*

Holding a Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Management, majoring in Exercise and Health, and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Secondary) in Physical

Education and Health Education, Keryn Ambler also brings a wealth of experience to his new role. As the convenor of cricket and hockey, he also heads coach development at Christ's College. In his previous position, Keryn was the Christchurch Metro Cricket Association Development Manager, managing youth cricket, including the representative programme, winter training, and secondary school-based cricket. He was also responsible for the management and delivery of coach development, alongside improving resources. Since 2017, Keryn has been the 1st XI head cricket coach and youth hockey coach at Christ's College.



### **Nicole Gleason**

*Basketball and Volleyball*

Holding a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Texas Wesleyan University in the United States, Nicole Gleason has experience in event management and marketing.

As the new convenor of basketball and volleyball, Nicole is also responsible for injury management and sports facility hire at Christ's College. Having spent several years with Canterbury Basketball as the junior events and programmes coordinator, Nicole has fostered strong relationships with clubs, schools, and coaches. She has also developed marketing strategies and helped to drive community engagement while fulfilling operational and logistics requirements.



### **Ben Stroud**

*Football and Tennis*

Holder of a Bachelor of Science in Communication from Missouri State University, former professional footballer, head coach, and university scholarship agent Ben Stroud is the new convenor of football

and tennis at Christ's College. He is also responsible for athlete development. Having recently been a youth head coach in Perth, Ben was previously captain of FC Jazz in Finland and an agent for New Zealand athletes seeking scholarships to attend university in the United States. He has also hosted sports-related podcasts, developed community football, and helped to lead Missouri State University up the rankings as a scholarship player. With a diverse background in professional sport, Ben now brings those skills to College.

## Returning staff

Kate Kempthorne-Smith, Liz de Lautour, and Christopher Nye all return to College in fixed-term roles in Art, Wellbeing and counselling, and Religious Education and Music, respectively.

## A warm welcome to our new staff



**Leigh-Anne Stratford**  
*Chief Financial Officer*

A chartered accountant with experience in corporate finance in London, Melbourne, and across New Zealand, Leigh-Anne Stratford has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at Christ's

College. Previously Group Financial Controller for Heritage Travel Services/Heritage Expeditions, Leigh-Anne has also held the role of Finance Manager for ProVision Eyecare and Icebreaker Australia. A graduate of the University of Otago, she has also been a project manager in London.



**Haydn Randall**  
*Director of Operations*

With experience in private practice, banking, and property, Haydn Randall has been appointed Director of Operations at Christ's College. Previously the Society of Mary NZ General Manager –

Property and Finance, Haydn has led Catholic school campus development, maintenance, and rebuilding projects. He has also been an ANZ relationship manager, particularly relating to the agricultural sector, and worked in private practice as a director and senior accountant.



**Robyn Matheson**  
*Payroll officer & accounts clerk*

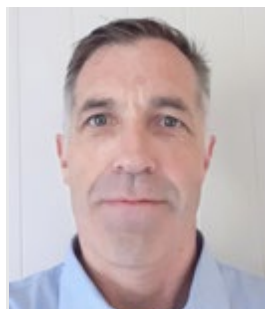
With nearly 30 years of experience in business and office management and administration, Robyn Matheson has been appointed payroll officer and

accounts clerk for College. Previously holding payroll roles for the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust and the Mackenzie District Council, Robyn has also been involved in payroll and administration at various companies and owned her own businesses.



**Ben Sheat**  
*PE & Health, Wellbeing*

Former New Zealand Basketball Coach of the Year Ben Sheat returns to College as a PE & Health teacher and to once again coach the A team. Ben will also be a residential tutor in Flower's House.



**Mark Hooper**  
*Head of Department –  
Mathematics & Statistics*

With extensive experience in advanced learning and school leadership, Mark Hooper has been appointed College Head of Department – Mathematics. Holder of a Bachelor of

Science (Hons) in Mathematics and Science, Mark has most recently been the National Learning Area Lead for Mathematics and Statistics for the Ministry of Education. He has also taught at Otago Boys' High School (OBHS) and St Peter's College, Cambridge, and lectured at the University of Canterbury. He was also the Deputy Rector at OBHS and in charge of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE).



**Steven Tait**  
*Te Reo Māori*

An experienced te reo teacher, Steven Tait joins College from ACG Sunderland, Auckland. Previously, he also taught te reo and social science at St Kentigern Boys' School. Holder of a

Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Graduate Diploma of Teaching, Steven is also an alumnus of the Royal Society Science Teaching Leadership programme.



**Jo Wilkinson**  
*Learning Centre – numeracy &  
literacy*

With experience in teaching structured literacy, Jo Wilkinson now brings her skills to College. Holder of a Bachelor of Science from the University of Canterbury and

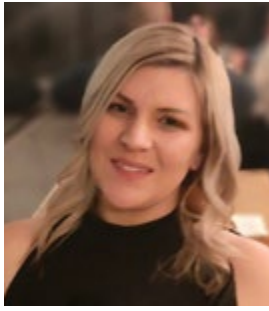
a Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning, Jo has also taught Chemistry and Science at Avonside Girls' High School and Papanui High School.



**Pippa Pavey**  
*Teacher aide*

Holder of a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Geography from the University of Otago and a Postgraduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching, Pippa Pavey has been a teacher,

literacy tutor, and fitness instructor. She joins College as a teacher aide.




**Sarah Moore**

*Graphic designer and marketing assistant*

Sarah Moore has stepped into the role of graphic designer and marketing assistant while Melissa Hogan is on parental leave. She is a qualified graphic designer, website

developer and a print and marketing expert with more than 10 years of experience in her field.



## Community Business Directory

A reminder that this useful directory is available to our community. If you want to buy something or need someone's services, remember to check out the College [Community Business Directory](#) and support those who support College.

If you would like to join the directory, please [click here](#).