

# WELCOME TO TERM 1

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CHRIST'S COLLEGE  
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

## Dear parents and caregivers



I warmly welcome all members of our College community to the new academic year. In particular, I extend a special welcome to the families who are joining us for the first time. We are delighted that you have chosen College and

look forward to working in partnership with you in the education and development of your sons.

There is something deeply affirming about the beginning of a new year – a renewed sense of energy, purpose, and possibility. I very much look forward to returning to the familiar rhythm of College life, with boys fully engaged in learning, sport, culture, service, and all that this remarkable place offers.

My key message to the boys at this time of year is the importance of maintaining high standards. The tone we set at the beginning of the year has a lasting influence on learning, behaviour, and culture. Standards matter because they reflect who we are and what we value. They are not about compliance for its own sake, but about creating an

### 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 2026

[Click here](#) to see activities at College from Monday 2 February–Sunday 15 February.

#### Key dates 2026

[Click here](#) to see key dates for 2026.

#### Year 9 parents and other new parents welcome to Christ's College

Year 9 parents and new parents from other year groups 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 5 March, 5.30–8pm, Assembly Hall (meet teachers) and the Chapman Room. [Register here.](#)

#### Year 10 families – Immerse & Inspire and Diploma programmes

Year 10 families are invited to join us for an introduction to our Immerse & Inspire and Diploma programmes, with Deputy Headmaster – Teaching & Learning Katie Southworth. Monday 16 March 6–7pm, Chapman Room. [Register here.](#)

environment in which our boys can thrive. We ask much of our students because we believe deeply in their potential and understand that excellence is built through daily habits, consistent effort, and pride in doing things well.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain firmly committed to our [Strategic Plan](#) and the priorities that shape our direction. Academic performance remains central, as we continue to ensure that College is the leading academic school for boys in New Zealand. We are also focused on financial sustainability, exercising prudent stewardship of our resources to support long-term success. Our commitment to co-curricular excellence remains strong, with outstanding programmes that develop character, confidence, and leadership in our students. We will also continue to prioritise the recruitment and retention of exceptional staff, recognising that great schools are built by great people. Finally, we are dedicated to strengthening community engagement, fostering meaningful connections with all stakeholders to enhance the College experience for every family.

Our community is one of College's greatest strengths. The partnership between students, staff, families, Old Boys, and supporters is vital to our continued success.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the wide range of community events throughout the year and to working together as we continue to build a College culture defined by aspiration, excellence, and care for one another.

Bene tradita, bene servanda.

## NCEA results

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 2025 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 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 2025, of the Year 10 students who sat the numeracy co-requisite, 92% passed it on the first attempt. Additionally, 99% of Year 11 students had passed the co-requisite reading and 98.6% 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.

## Important information continued...

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

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

Designed to inform parents new to NCEA about the qualification, Deputy Headmaster – Teaching & Learning Katie Southworth will explain the qualifications framework, assessment types, assessment practice, and other useful information regarding NCEA. Monday 23 February, 6–7pm, Chapman Room.  
[Register here.](#)

### College Calendar

Our [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 calendar.

### Upcoming Events

We have a packed programme of parent and community events. 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 Visits

Look out for our Community Visits in 2026. All the dates and details will be published on the [Upcoming Events](#) page on the College website. We will be holding events in Arrowtown, Timaru, Ashburton, Blenheim, and Wanaka. Please look out for any further visits. 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.

### Absence Line

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 an absence 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.

# Deputy Headmaster Student Care – Ben Vink

Welcome back to 2026. I want to take this opportunity to welcome our Year 9 cohort and look forward to watching our Year 13 students step into their leadership positions.

## Electric Avenue Friday 27 February–Saturday 28 February

With the Electric Avenue music festival being held over two days in North Hagley Park and the high numbers expected to attend, there will be changes to the 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, and School House. While boarders will be able to stay in Richards House over the two days, we strongly encourage families to take their boys 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 Friday 27 February, with all boys finishing school at 1pm.

If boys want to move to Richards House for the weekend, parents need to notify Deputy Headmaster Student Care – Ben Vink via an email to Gill Blackler at [gill.blackler@christscollege.com](mailto:gill.blackler@christscollege.com). Further details will be sent to parents.

## Athletics Day

Please note that the Christ's College Athletics Day will be held on Thursday 26 February at Ngā Puna Wai.

## Boarding and Public Holidays

Over the past few years, fewer boys have been staying in the boarding houses over long weekends. At times, only one or two boys remain in a House, which is not ideal for the boys' welfare. As a consequence, we will combine the Houses for Labour Weekend and Show Weekend in Term 4.

This year, all Houses will be open for the Waitangi Weekend, while the King's Birthday Weekend will remain an exeat weekend, as has been the tradition at Christ's College.

At Labour Weekend, Flower's House will be open, with Richards House and School House closed. Boys are welcome to move to Flower's House for the weekend. At Show Weekend, School House will remain open, with Flower's House and Richards House closed. Boys are welcome to move to School House for the weekend.

## 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 Tuesday 3 February and cost

\$14.50 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 highly 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 own 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 a number of 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. Further information about Child Matters can be found [here](#).

## Metro school services 2026

### There are key changes to school routes 741 and 742 from Sumner to City and Merivale schools:

- The Metro timetable has been adjusted to better suit school start times, and an earlier timetable on Wednesday afternoons has been added to Route 741.
- Route 741 now starts at St Andrew's College, and no longer stops at Selwyn House because of low passenger numbers.
- Students on 742 can transfer to the 3 at Ferrymead shops for journeys to Sumner.
- Please see [Metro school services](#) for schedule and route information.
- You can also check out [Metro journey planner](#) for alternative urban route options.

We know that some students are new to taking the bus to school, so check out the need-to-know section on Metro's website at [Catch the bus to school](#).

You can also email [metro@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:metro@ecan.govt.nz) or call 03 366 8855 and the Metro customer service team can help with planning your journey to school.

## 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:

- a clean uniform
- regulation belts (black and no large buckles) for their shorts and trousers
- black shoes (lace-up only); no boots
- shirts that fit around the neck
- short black socks, with a white stripe

There must be no holes in school blazers.

You can find the Uniform Shop booklet [here](#).

### 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. Senior Deputy Headmaster Darrell Thatcher will be the 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.

### Uniform Shop hours

The Uniform Shop is open one week before Term 1 starts, from Monday 26–Friday 30 January, 10am–4pm.

It is also open Monday 2–Thursday 5 February, from 10am–4pm.

From Monday 9 February, the Uniform Shop hours are:

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

In 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 [uniformshop@christscolllege.com](mailto:uniformshop@christscolllege.com).

## Important information continued...

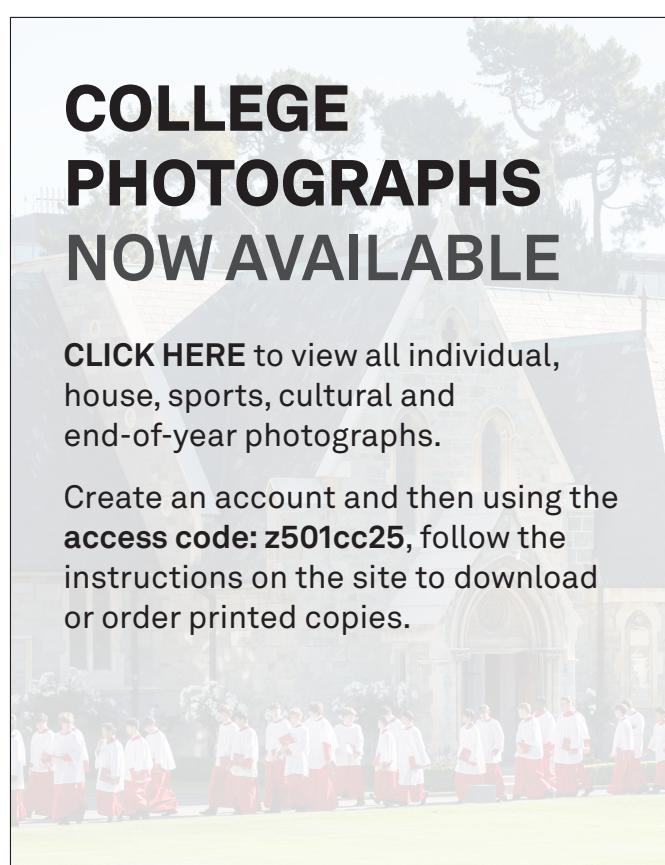
### Stationery

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](#), and [student laptop](#) information.) Stationery orders for Years 10–13 are made through OfficeMax. Please [click here](#).

## COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS NOW AVAILABLE

**CLICK HERE** to view all individual, house, sports, cultural and end-of-year photographs.

Create an account and then using the **access code: z501cc25**, follow the instructions on the site to download or order printed copies.



# A warm welcome to our new staff

## **Brett Ellis**

### *Mathematics & Statistics*

Holder of a Master of Teaching and Learning from the University of Canterbury, Brett Ellis joins the Mathematics & Statistics Department. Prior to teaching, Brett was also involved in university research. He was also a honey analyst with Airborne Honey. He joins College from Burnside High School, having been involved with junior rugby and environmental programmes. He has a strong interest in Eco-Action and rugby.

## **Richard Papps**

### *Workshop Technologies*

Holder of a Bachelor of Arts in History and Classical Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning, and a National Certificate in Carpentry, Richard Papps brings 12 years of experience in the building industry to Workshop Technologies. He enjoyed a placement during training at College before taking up a teaching role at Darfield High School. He believes that technology as a subject can engage a wide variety of ākonga.

## **Bren Olykan**

### *Workshop Technician*

With more than 25 years of experience in designing and making custom furniture and sculptural pieces, commercial fitouts, signage, and building houses, Bren brings a varied range of skills to his role in Workshop Technologies. His commercial background includes complex builds and designs, as well as project management, health and safety, and overseeing staff and sub-contractors. Bren is also the founder of Iconic Art, turning scrap steel and 'found' material into functional and artistic pieces.

## **Sarah Kentish-Barnes**

### *Receptionist/Administrator*

Holder of a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Canterbury and with a strong background in administration, publishing, and systems management, Sarah Kentish-Barnes joins College on a fixed-term contract, working as a receptionist/administrator from Monday to Wednesday. Sarah brings extensive experience in reception and administration roles, including several years at Christchurch Girls' High School. During that time, she has been a key point of contact between the school, families, and the wider community, ensuring that she is well placed to support the College community.

## **Eamon McLuckie**

### *Gap student*

From Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, Eamon McLuckie joins College as our new Gap student this year. With a strong interest in drama and dance, Eamon will also be an asset to the Drama department.

## **Returning staff**

Chris Nye, Lesley Anderson-McKenna (Term 2 cover for Gill Kilpatrick), and Francois Guittenit all return to College in fixed-term roles in English, Literacy, and Workshop Technologies, respectively. Graphic Designer/Marketing member of the Advancement team Melissa Hogan also returns to College following parental leave.

Katrina Mangous will join College from Terms 2–4 for a fixed-term role in numeracy while Shelly Jackson takes leave.

CHRIST'S COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY *Visits*

Everyone's welcome.

12 March – Southern Lakes	21 October – Mid Canterbury
28 May – Auckland	4 November – Nelson
16 June – Wellington	5 November – Blenheim
20 October – South Canterbury	17 November – Wanaka

Register now

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## Staff farewells

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

The Housemaster of Harper House, Neil de Joux, has taken up a senior role at Burnside High School. Neil, who joined College in 2020, brought his considerable Mathematics skills to College and also led Harper House, supporting the boys and providing guidance.

Teacher-in-Charge – Psychology Travis Dixon has also resigned after four years at College. Travis brought a wealth of international experience to his role and shaped a very popular subject that was greatly appreciated by the boys.

Workshop Technologies teacher Emma Bradley-Hudson has also resigned. A former Head of Department at College, Emma helped many boys hone their workshop skills.

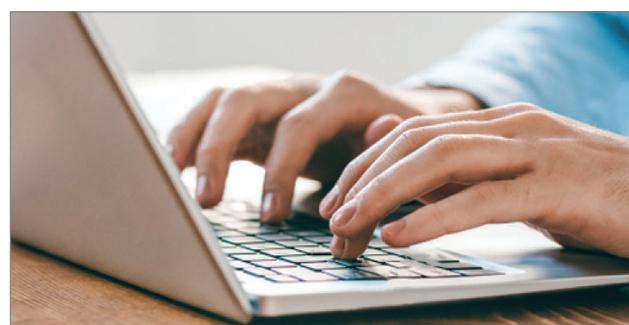
Workshop Technologies technician Gavin Love has decided to retire after returning to College to help out in the department. Previously, Gavin introduced the mechanical engineering programme to the school, teaching and mentoring boys for 10 years.

We also thank HR Manager Shari Clunne for her 10 years of service to College and commitment to the school, and Health Centre Nurse Nicky Taylor for caring for so many boys over the years. We also appreciate the work of graphic designer Sarah Moore, who has worked in the Advancement team as parental leave cover.

We bid a fond farewell to two of our wonderful domestic staff, Colleen Bateman and Vicki Skevington. Both have been highly valued members of our boarding community, with Colleen a vital member of

the Flower's House team for 21 years and Vicki integral to School House life for 17 years. They have both played important roles in their Houses.

Our thanks also to MINDfit and Wellbeing teacher Liz de Lautour and GAP student Felix Harvison who have completed their fixed terms at College. Liz has helped our boys to develop and appreciate their character strengths through her positive approach and focus on wellbeing. Felix has stepped up to help out both on the campus and during a range of sport and co-curricular activities. He has been a reliable member of the support team, always ready to lend a hand and with a ready smile.



## 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](#).

