

WELCOME TO TERM 2

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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers



***Les Misérables* comes to life**

There are certain stories that transcend time – stories that stir something deep within us through their characters, their themes, and, of course, their music. *Les Misérables* is undoubtedly one of those rare works.

In this year's performance, we join forces with our sister school, St Margaret's College. Together, our students and staff have been working hard to bring this extraordinary musical to life.

Without hesitation, '*Les Mis*' is my favourite musical. Set against the backdrop of revolutionary France, it explores timeless themes of justice, sacrifice, redemption, and hope. Its enduring power lies in its ability to illuminate the human condition in all its complexity, while providing our students with the opportunity to engage deeply with these ideas in ways that are both meaningful and memorable.

At the end of last term, I attended a rehearsal and was struck by the intensity of focus and the amount of work behind every moment on stage. What may appear seamless in performance is, in reality, the result of countless hours of preparation. Every scene demands an extraordinary level of commitment from the performers, technical crew, and the staff who guide them. It is a reminder of what young people can achieve when they are challenged.

Important dates

Key dates 2026

Please read our [key dates](#) (including boarding dates) to find all the information about College events and activities through to the end of the year.

Wednesday 29 April

Orchestra Extravaganza with St Margaret's College and Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Assembly Hall, 7.30–9pm

Thursday 7 May

Years 12–13 NCEA parent/teacher/student meeting (online), 2.30–7pm (classes will finish at 1.10pm). Bookings open on Tuesday 28 April – details will be sent via email.

Tuesday 12 May–Saturday 16 May

Les Misérables – joint senior production with St Margaret's College, Assembly Hall – [book here](#).

King's Birthday Exeat Weekend

Boarding houses close at 1pm on Saturday 30 May and reopen at 3pm on Monday 1 June. While it is a teacher-only day on Friday 29 May, all boys must fulfil their sports commitments on Friday and Saturday.

The importance of the arts in education cannot be overstated. The arts create space for creativity and expression, while also demanding discipline and courage. It is through the arts, students are challenged to see the world, and themselves, with greater depth and understanding, developing empathy and insight that extend far beyond the stage.

This production is shaping up to be something special. I warmly encourage you all to come along and experience it for yourselves. This will be a production to remember.

Response to fuel shortages

We want to update you on the current fuel situation and what it may mean for College in the coming months.

At present, our reliance on diesel across College includes:

- The water heating in the Miles Warren Building
- The heating in the Science Block
- The heating of the School House ground floor
- The operation of College vans.

Our bulk diesel supply has been placed on a rotation system – effectively a form of rationing. Previously, we were able to keep our 10,000-litre tank full. Under the new system, this will likely reduce to between one-quarter and one-half capacity. On a positive note, schools are considered priority customers, so it is unlikely that we will run out of fuel.

However, the duration and severity of the current fuel shortage remain uncertain. With that in mind, we are undertaking some preventive measures to preserve our supply.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated.

Student appearance

Boys must be clean-shaven and should ensure that 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 Headmaster – Student Care Ben Vink will be the final arbiter of any decisions.

NCEA co-requisites

The NCEA changes have also brought co-requisites for literacy and numeracy. Students must pass these to gain any NCEA qualification. There are three digital assessments – numeracy, reading, and writing. In passing all three, students gain 20 credits that contribute to their NCEA qualifications in Years 12–13.

Students can take these co-requisite assessments multiple times, from Years 9–13. They only need to pass each once. Students have two opportunities – in May and September – to sit the co-requisites.

It is important to note that boys may not pass on their first attempt, and this is not always an indication of their skill level. Understanding the assessment and attention to detail also plays a part.

All Year 11 students will sit at least the literacy (reading and writing) assessment in May (with some also resitting the numeracy). Some Year 10 boys will attempt the numeracy assessment in May in order to provide the earliest opportunity. This will be determined by the boys' standard of work in Core Mathematics. If your son is not attempting numeracy in May, they will attempt the co-requisite in September. We will meet the Year 10 and Year 11 students at the start of Term 2 to explain the assessments. It is important to note that the literacy and numeracy skills are embedded in courses from the start of the boys' time at College.

Further information on the co-requisites can be found on the [Ministry of Education site](#) and via the NZQA 'tile' in the parent portal. Sample papers are available on the NCEA Education website ([click here](#) for reading, [click here](#) for writing, and [click here](#) for numeracy). These are public versions, so the copyright information has been redacted. Boys can access digital practice (including the copyright information) by logging into their NZQA accounts. We encourage boys to do a practice paper before the assessment.

- Year 10 numeracy assessments: Week 4
- Year 11 literacy assessments: Week 5

**Students usually sit in House groups, which will be advised closer to the time. Boys with special assessment conditions will complete their assessments at different times (as advised through the Learning Centre).*

Winter uniform

The formal suit is worn on Mondays and Fridays in Terms 2–3 and for Sunday Chapel services. The blazer is worn on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Terms 2–3, with long trousers. No shorts are to be worn during Terms 2–3. Boys can also wear the black College jersey or black College vest under their blazer.

2025 Register opt-out

Each year, Christ's College produces the school yearbook, *Register*, which is normally printed and distributed to all students. This year, Years 10–13 families have the option to opt-out of receiving a printed copy and instead receive a digital version.

The cost of the printed *Register* will be \$35 per copy (reduced from previous years due to a smaller publication size).

- If you do not want a printed copy/copies, please complete this [form](#) by Friday 1 May.
- If you have more than one son at College but only want one copy, please complete this [form](#) by Friday 1 May.
- If you would like to continue to receive a printed copy for your son/each of your sons, please complete this [form](#) by Friday 1 May.
- If you do nothing, a printed copy will be provided and \$35 will be charged to your account per student.

Anzac Day Service

Please note that for the Anzac Day Service on Wednesday 29 April, boys must wear their suits as we join together to commemorate Anzac Day with a special service remembering our fallen Old Boys. The service, which will be held in the Chapel, will be led by The Reverend Canon Cameron Pickering.

Flu vaccination

We encourage families to consider arranging a flu vaccination for their son. A highly contagious virus, influenza spreads quickly in school communities, particularly when students spend extended periods together in classrooms, playing sports, and sharing spaces. Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk of catching the flu and can also lessen the severity of symptoms if someone does become unwell. It also helps to protect others in the community, including those with underlying health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious illness. By having the flu vaccine, students can reduce the spread of infection within the school and minimise time away from learning due to illness. If you want your son to receive the flu vaccination, it may be timely to arrange now.

Summer sport success for College

Multiple medals, a national title, and high-level performances across six sports – it has been an impressive [Summer Tournament Week](#) for College.

Important dates continued...

Tuesday 2 June – Annual Christ's College vs CBHS rugby match

Christ's College vs Christchurch Boys' High School rugby match at CBHS. The game starts at 1pm, with further details to follow.

Wednesday 17 June–Saturday 20 June – 100th Quadrangular Rugby Tournament

Hosted by Whanganui Collegiate, the Quadrangular Rugby Tournament also features Christ's College, Wellington College, and Nelson College.

Thursday 25 June – CCPA House Music Festival

Held in the Christchurch Town Hall, the annual Christ's College Parents' Association House Music Festival starts at 6.30pm.

Tuesday 30 June

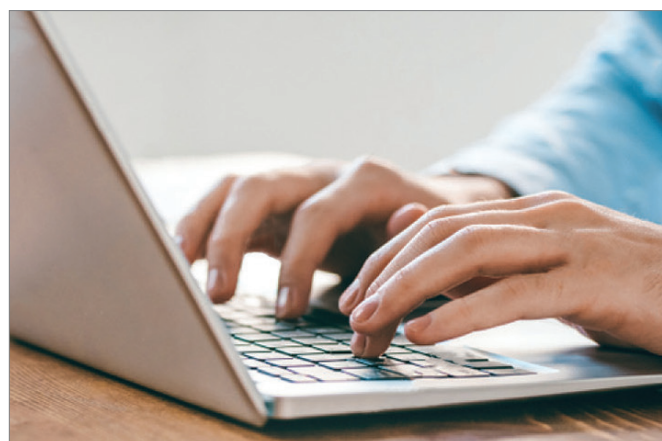
Year 9 parent/teacher/student meetings (online), 2.30–6.30pm (classes will finish at 12.50pm).

Friday 3 July

Christ's College Parents' Association Midwinter Drinks, Dining Hall, 6–8pm

Weekly routine

The weekly routine for Terms 2–3 can be viewed [here](#).



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](#).

New staff

Lucy Matthews

Human Resources Advisor

Holder of a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Waikato, Human Resources Advisor Lucy Matthews has held senior HR roles. Lucy joins College from global education provider Navitas, having been responsible for HR support to multiple tertiary institutions. Previously, she was the HR Advisor for Fulton Hogan's civil engineering division and also worked for IAG. Lucy also has experience in leadership coaching and strategic initiatives.

Katrina Mangous

Numeracy teacher

Holder of a Bachelor of Science from the University of Canterbury, a Diploma of Teaching from the Christchurch College of Education, and a Master of Education from Framingham State University in Massachusetts, United States, numeracy teacher Katrina Mangous has more than 28 years of classroom and curriculum development experience. She also holds a Mathematics Specialists in International Schools Certificate from American Education Reaches Out in Shanghai, China. Her teaching experience includes positions at Christchurch Boys' High School, Rangī Ruru Girls' School, St Margaret's College, and Shanghai American School.

Freddy Jackson

Gap student

From England, Freddie Jackson joins College as our new Gap student. With a strong interest in rugby, basketball, cricket, and skiing, Freddie will bring his skills to many co-curricular activities. During his time at Canford School in Dorset, Freddie held a leadership role and was involved in the national school cadet competition, which tests endurance, tactical skills, and resilience. He is interested in a career in marine biology.

Staff changes

Lesley Anderson-McKenna – a former long-time staff member – will return to College to rejoin the Learning Centre this term while Gill Kilpatrick is on leave. Sarah Loughnan will be the Acting Head of the Learning Centre during Gill's absence. Katrina Mangous will join College from Terms 2–4 in a fixed-term role in numeracy while Shelly Jackson takes leave.

Call for caregiver families or school holidays hosts

If anyone is interested in making international connections and helping to support an international student during their time at Christ's College, we have two options available.

We are looking for local caregivers for international students or any College families willing to host a boy during the school holidays.

Caregivers provide regular – and ongoing – support to boys, offering occasional weekends at their homes, providing transport to appointments, such as seeing a dentist or getting a haircut, and welcoming a student to their home if a boarding house needs to close for a period. Full caregiver guidelines are provided for this paid role.

For those families willing to host an international student during the school holidays, it is an amazing opportunity to establish strong global connections while also learning more about a different culture.

If families are interested in either opportunity or need more information, please contact Christ's College International Student Manager Sarah Davidson at sarah.davidson@christscollege.com.



CHRIST'S COLLEGE PARENT EDUCATION EVENING

The power of nutrition for mental wellbeing

Presented by Professor Julia Rucklidge

Clinical psychologist Professor Julia Rucklidge will provide practical advice on nutrition for mental wellness, and will also discuss how nutrition helps build resilience and wellness, and the impact of ultra-processed foods and how to recognise them.

We invite parents and students from Years 9–13 to attend.

Monday 25 May, 6–7.30pm, Assembly Hall

[Register here](#)



CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY
Each boy at his best.

Do You Hear the People Sing? The revolution arrives at Christ's College

The barricades are being built, the orchestra is tuning up, and the stage is set for what promises to be one of the most ambitious theatrical events in the history of Christ's College.

In a joint production, Christ's College and St Margaret's College proudly present the global phenomenon *Les Misérables*.

Staging 'Les Mis' is no small feat. It is a 'sung-through' musical that demands immense vocal power, emotional maturity, and technical precision.

However, our Years 11–13 students have risen to the challenge with a stunning level of passion and tenacity. The sheer scale of talent on display this year is breathtaking.

From the raw, soaring vocals of our lead performers to the powerful unity of the ensemble, the cast has delved deep into the heart of 19th century France to bring this story of redemption and hope to life.

Behind the scenes, our exceptional student crew is managing complex lighting, intricate set changes, and the high-pressure environment that a production of this magnitude requires. Both on and off the stage, this is a testament to what our students can achieve when they step up to a challenge and work as a dedicated team.

[Tickets](#) are selling very fast, so you will need to be quick to secure a seat. Come and marvel as our remarkable performers bring the revolution to life.

Christ's College and St Margaret's College present

Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

St Margaret's
College

ARCHIBALDS
EST. 1918

Ember
Technology
Artificial Intelligence | Software Development | IT Support

MAINLAND
CAPITAL

PAKnSAVE

savills

12-16 May | Christ's College Assembly Hall | Tickets at [Eventfinda.co.nz](https://www.eventfinda.co.nz)