

WELCOME TO TERM 3

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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers



Strategic priorities update – mid-year 2026

As we move into Term 3, it is important to share our progress regarding the [strategic priorities](#) that will shape the future of Christ's College. Our vision is clear – to be an Anglican community that educates boys to become men of virtuous character

who make a positive difference in society. Therefore, every decision we make – and every initiative we undertake – is guided by this purpose as we strive to fulfil our mission of ensuring 'Each boy at his best'.

Academic Performance

Academic excellence remains at the heart of our mission, and we have strengthened both our academic structures and the learning experience. Our new horizontal mentor programme provides more targeted pastoral and academic support at each year level while a new middle leadership model ensures greater curriculum leadership and support for teachers.

Year 9 academic banding has been reintroduced to underpin a more targeted teaching and learning approach, and redesigned academic reporting delivers greater insights into teaching, learning, and achievement for the school.

Important dates

Key dates 2026

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

Sunday 19 July

Boarding Houses open from 3pm for Term 3 (all boarders due back in their Houses by 8pm).

Sunday 26 July

Chapel Service, 7pm

Monday 27 July

Years 11–12 NCEA Options Evening for parents and boys, 6–7.30pm, Assembly Hall

Sunday 9 August

Combined Boarders Chapel (at St Andrew's College), 6.30pm

Sunday 9 August

Chapel Service, 7pm

Moves are under way to further improve the College Diploma to align with the evolving educational landscape while we also plan to expand higher learning opportunities for boys seeking academic extension. A planned global pathways programme will also support those boys targeting overseas universities.

Ongoing improvement in NCEA achievement, and higher University Entrance and Scholarship outcomes remain core to our programmes.

Financial Sustainability

Ensuring the long-term financial strength of our school enables us to continue investing in our boys while preserving the traditions that set Christ's College apart from other schools.

Our 10-year property plan provides a clear roadmap for our campus, with the refurbishment of School House, the refurbishing and upgrading of our Music facilities, and the refurbishment of the Science block our main priorities.

Co-curricular Excellence

A Christ's College education extends well beyond the classroom. We continue to celebrate our talent and the commitment of our boys across many areas of our school while looking for opportunities to introduce positive changes

Our production of *Les Misérables* was an extraordinary success, and the introduction of our new school haka strengthened our commitment to honouring Te Ao Māori.

We also reviewed our rowing programme, resulting in a new leadership structure, and College joined the South Island Boys' 1st XV school rugby competition. Work also continued on a long-term Music strategy.

Enabling leadership opportunities remains paramount at College as we refine the programmes that foster character, service, resilience, and personal responsibility. We have also implemented initiatives to strengthen boys' sense of belonging and connection.

Collectively, this is a vital step towards embedding a culture where leadership is viewed as service, character is intentionally developed, and every boy is encouraged to make a positive difference within College and beyond.

Retention and Recruitment of Quality Staff

Outstanding schools are built by outstanding people. We plan to establish a performance and professional growth framework, develop a College-wide professional learning programme, improve onboarding for new staff, and strengthen our recruitment capability.

We want to ensure that we attract and retain exceptional educators who embody our Anglican virtues and commitment to boys' education.

Community Engagement

Our community remains one of our greatest strengths, as we focus on how we engage with current and future families.

A comprehensive brand refresh is under way that will later include an enhanced College website. In tandem, new strategies will target enrolments, including boarding, stronger ties to feeder schools, and greater visibility within our wider community.

Looking ahead

Ultimately, everything we do is measured against one simple question: What is best for our boys?

Joe Eccleton
Headmaster

Important dates continued...

Tuesday 18 August

REACTION House Plays Festival –
Night one, 6.30–8.30pm,
Assembly Hall

Condell's, Corfe, Harper, Jacobs, Julius

Thursday 20 August

REACTION House Plays Festival –
Night two, 6.30–8.30pm,
Assembly Hall

Flower's, Richards, Rolleston,
School, Somes

Friday 21 August

Years 10–11 parent/teacher/
student meetings by appointment,
9.30am–5pm

(NO CLASSES for Years 9–13)

Sunday 23 August

Chapel Service, 7pm

Monday 24–Friday 28 August

Derived Grade examinations for
Years 12–13

Monday 24 August

Diploma Options Evening for
parents, and boys of Years 9–10,
6–7pm, Chapman Room

Monday 31 August–Sunday 6 September

Winter Tournament Week

Friday 11 September

Grandparents' Day, 10.15am–12pm.
Please register [here](#).

Friday 11 September

Years 12–13 parent/teacher/student
meetings by appointment, 2–6pm

Saturday 12 September

College Senior Ball, 7.30–11pm, Te Pae

Sunday 13 September

Chapel Service, 7pm

Saturday 19 September

Boarding Houses close for Term 3
at 3pm

Enrolments

The demand for places at Christ's College continues to climb. We will be interviewing the siblings of present students – for 2028 entry – later this year. If you have not enrolled your son, please do so immediately by clicking [here](#).

Course selection evenings

While we are only at the halfway mark in the academic year, Term 3 is an important time for looking ahead. Two key dates to keep in mind are the course selection evenings (listed below).

This is an opportunity for boys and parents to speak to the relevant department representatives about the courses students are considering. While there will be a brief introduction about the choice process, the evenings are designed for one-to-one conversations with subject experts (and, therefore, will not be live-streamed). If you have any questions, please make the most of these opportunities and join us at the respective events.

NCEA Options Evening

Monday 27 July 6–7.30pm, Assembly Hall

Diploma Options Evening

Monday 24 August, 6–7pm, Chapman Room

Leaving College?

If your son does not plan to return to Christ's College in 2027, please email mmurrell@christscollege.com to let us know by the end of Week 1, Term 4. Later notice will likely incur fees for Term 1, 2027.

REACTION House Plays Festival

Join us at our REACTION House Plays Festival in August, with each House stepping into the spotlight across two very entertaining evenings.

18 August – Night one
6.30–8.30pm, Assembly Hall

Condell's, Corfe, Harper, Jacobs, Julius

20 August – Night two
6.30–8.30pm, Assembly Hall

Flower's, Richards, Rolleston, School, Somes

Student care – car registration

As part of our duty of care of our students, we have included links for the car registration for dayboys and boarders who bring a vehicle to school. Please fill in the [2026 Vehicle Permission Form](#) for dayboys and boarders so that we have all vehicle details.

Staff update

Chris Sellars

We farewell Careers Advisor Chris Sellars at the end of the year. He has held that role since starting at Christ's College in 1998. Chris was also named Richards House Housemaster that year, holding the position until 2017. He was the 1st XV Manager from 2000–2017 and the Rowing Manager from 2010–2026, and coached the 2nd XI cricket team from 1999–2010. We wish Chris well in retirement and appreciate his lengthy service and commitment to Christ's College and his impact in guiding thousands of boys over nearly 30 years.

Kevin Harris

Kevin Harris will step down as Housemaster of Richards House at the end of the year. Kevin has held the role since 2018, having taken over from Chris Sellars.

Stacey James

Flower's House Day Matron Stacey James has left Christ's College to take up a new boarding school role. Stacey joined College in 2022 as the Richards House Day Matron before moving to Flower's House in 2024.

Gill Kilpatrick

Gill Kilpatrick resumes her role as Head of the Learning Centre this term. Katrina Mangous will continue in a fixed-term role in numeracy while Shelly Jackson takes leave.

Freddy Jackson

Gap student

From England, Freddie Jackson officially joins College this term as our new Gap student. He steps into the role as Jack Le Roux heads home to England after contributing to school life – including being involved in a range of sports – for the past year.