



WELCOME TO TERM 4

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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY
Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers



Term 4 brings our academic year into sharp focus. For our senior boys, examinations are very close, and this is the point at which preparation, organisation, and discipline matter. Examinations are not the sole measure of our young men, but they do provide an important opportunity for boys to demonstrate what they know and

what they can achieve. I expect every student to approach his examinations determined to perform to the very best of his ability. At this stage of the year, there is no substitute for doing the work.

For our junior boys, Term 4 also remains an important academic period, with the focus on assessments and learning. However, as the academic programme concludes, the end of the year provides different opportunities. Our end-of-year programmes are integral to the breadth of a Christ's College education, taking boys beyond the conventional classroom. Importantly, our service programmes also provide opportunities for boys to engage with – and contribute to – the communities of which they are a part.

My expectations of the boys this term are straightforward: work hard, be involved, look after one another, and finish well. Term 4 is short,

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.

Term 4 boarders return date

We look forward to welcoming back our boarders from 3pm on Sunday 11 October. All boarders are due back in the Houses by 8pm.

Friday 16 October

2027 Year 9 Levels Test and parent welcome

Monday 19–Tuesday 20 October

Sedley Wells Music Competition, Assembly Hall

Friday 23 October

Parents' Association Pink Lunch, Dining Hall, [book online](#)

Monday 26 October

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
(NO CLASSES)

and it can be tempting, particularly as the weather improves and the end of the year approaches, to take the foot off the accelerator. I expect the opposite. Our standards of behaviour, uniform, attendance, punctuality, and engagement should remain high until the final day. I expect our senior boys to lead by example and our younger boys to continue developing the habits and standards that will serve them throughout their time at College.

Term 4 will be busy and demanding, but it should also be enormously rewarding. I encourage all our young men to make the most of every opportunity and, above all, to finish the year strongly. There is still much to accomplish this term, and I look forward to sharing the many important moments the final term brings with our boys, staff, and families.

Joe Eccleton
Headmaster

Annual Appeal – Keeping music at the heart of College

Music is thriving at Christ's College. Every day, the Music Department is bursting with boys rehearsing and playing music. With that level of participation comes increasing pressure on our spaces, instruments and equipment. Some of our most-used instruments are ready for renewal, technology and equipment need replacing or updating and as more boys take part, we need spaces that can better support the programme.

Christ's College is already investing in the future of music. In the past year, College has refurbished spaces, bought new instruments, and upgraded sound and recording equipment, with more improvements under way. This year's Annual Appeal will fund the next stage of that commitment, further enhancing an outstanding – and flourishing – music programme.

Music is part of every boy's College experience

Every boy takes Music in their first year at College. Some go on to join a rock band, sing in Chapel Choir, play jazz, learn an instrument, perform in an ensemble, or take to the stage in a production. For others, music might simply mean standing alongside their friends at House Music each year. Those experiences teach more than music. They nurture confidence, creativity, collaboration, leadership, and wellbeing. Boys learn skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

This year, the Annual Appeal will help:

- Purchase new instruments, amplifiers, and technology to support boys across the music programme
- Complete the Band Room as a fully autonomous, professionally equipped space with new computers, microphones, a mixing desk, and sound isolation
- Develop a dedicated Jazz Room, with the instruments and equipment needed for teaching and rehearsal, giving the jazz programme a space of its own.

By giving to the 2026 Annual Appeal, you will ensure more boys experience what music brings to College life – from the classroom, to the Chapel, the rehearsal room, and beyond.

Let's keep music at the heart of College. Click [here](#) to donate.

Important dates continued...

Saturday 31 October

Year 11 Semi-Formal, Majestic on Durham

Tuesday 3 November–Saturday 7 November

Christ's College-Rangi Ruru Girls' School junior production, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Old Boys' Theatre – [book online](#)

Wednesday 4 November

Last day of classes for Years 12–13

Tuesday 10 November

NCEA examinations begin for Years 12–13

Thursday 12 November

Teacher-only Day (NO CLASSES)

Friday 13 November

CANTERBURY PUBLIC HOLIDAY (NO CLASSES)

Wednesday 18 November–Wednesday 25 November

Semester 2 prep examinations for Year 11 students

Thursday 26 November–Thursday 3 December

Year 9 Outdoor Education and Year 10 Community Service programmes

Monday 30 November–Thursday 3 December

Year 11 Finding my Pathway programme

Thursday 3 December

Christ's College Carols Service, 6–7pm

Friday 4 December

Years 9–13 Prize-giving, Christchurch Town Hall, 1pm, and Year 13 Leavers' Chapel Service, Chapel, 4pm

Saturday 5 December

Year 13 Leavers' Function, 7.30–11pm

Year 11

Exams

All College Diploma prep courses, where appropriate, will have an examination. Exams will run from Wednesday 18 November–Wednesday 25 November. During these exams, boys will be on study leave to focus on performing at their best. Exam results will be used to determine their readiness for chosen NCEA subjects.

End-of-year experience – Finding your pathway

The Finding Your Pathway programme provides an opportunity for the boys to start to consider their post-College study, training, and career options. During the programme, the boys will visit Archibalds, Riverside, and the Defence Force office. They will also travel to Lincoln University, and hear from Ara staff during a presentation at College. Several Old Boys will also share their journeys from Christ's College to their careers, and health professionals from various fields will speak to the boys. The Finding Your Pathway programme aims to broaden boys' thinking about their studies, training, and career options as they start to prepare for post-school life.

The programme runs from Monday 30 November–Thursday 3 December.

Supervised study

Last year, we began a supervised study programme for senior boys who under-performed consistently during the academic year. It will continue this year, with boys notified at the start of Term 4 if they are required to attend supervised study.

Progress check

To ensure that boys understand their grade position prior to the end-of-year examinations, they can view and monitor their progress via the following options:

- Schoolbox grades, which provide a 'live' update
- The NZQA website, with boys able to access the website via their login to check their current grades (There is a delay in syncing between Schoolbox and NZQA.)
- Analytics – a function available to boys and parents via the Schoolbox profile. It also shows co-requisite and UE literacy status.

If students have any questions or are unsure about the process, they should talk to their class teachers or mentors as soon as possible.

Prize-giving

The full-school Prize-giving will be held at the Christchurch Town Hall on Friday 4 December at 1pm. All boys must wear their grey suits. Further details will be provided in Term 4.

Year 10

End of year

Classes for Year 10 students will finish on Wednesday 25 November. During the following six days, the boys will be involved in multiple experiences, including a marae visit, worship tour, and a community service programme. All will contribute to your son's Ngā Miha Mātauranga – Christ's College Diploma. This will conclude on Thursday 3 December.

Year 9

Final week

Year 9 classes will finish on Wednesday 25 November. The boys will then be involved in an outdoor education programme, including a two-day overnight camp and four day trips. Boys will attend a compulsory pre-camp briefing, with the date confirmed later in Term 4. Camp commitments will, where possible, accommodate any junior sport tournaments or co-curricular activities. The programme will conclude on Thursday 3 December.

Years 9–11 end of year

The last day for Years 9–11 is Friday 4 December. There are no classes but all boys must attend Prize-giving. It is all about celebrating the year. Boys must wear their suits.

Years 12–13 end of year

The last day for Years 12–13 classes is Wednesday 4 November (Term 4, Week 4). This provides time for study in preparation for NCEA exams starting on Tuesday 10 November. Prior to the start of these exams, teachers will be available in their classrooms to assist students, as per their regular subject timetable. The exam timetable can be found [here](#).

Term 4 Chapel services

Sunday 18 October

Years 11–13

Sunday 8 November

Years 9–11

Sunday 22 November

Advent Chapel Service, Years 9–10

Please note that Years 9–11 are expected to attend two Sunday Chapel services during Term 4, and Years 12–13 one service.

College magazine

The latest issue of *College* magazine has been distributed to each House for your son to take home. Please check that he has picked up his copy. You can also read *College* magazine [online](#).

New faculty-based structure

As outlined in the latest [College magazine](#), Christ's College will move to a faculty-based structure from 2027. This will bring complementary subject areas together to foster greater co-operation between departments, encourage the sharing of expertise, and empower stronger, more cohesive curriculum leadership.

2027 Heads of Faculty (HoF)

HoF Maths – Mark Hooper

HoF Technology – Carey Prebble

HoF Languages – Elaine Tang

HoF Science – Kirsty Howatson

HoF Social Science – Warren Lidstone

HoF PE & Health – Rob Clarke

HoF Arts – Hannah Clarkson

HoF English – To be confirmed early this term

Help needed – share your thoughts

Over the past few months, Christ's College has been reviewing the Christ's College brand, with the help of Ben Crawford and the team at Tomorrow Studio.

This is not about changing who we are. It is about ensuring that what makes Christ's College special is reflected in the way we present the school through our website, publications, advertising, and marketing.

This is important work. We want the way we present College to feel true to the experience of the boys and families who know us well, while also helping prospective families to understand what a Christ's College education offers.

As part of the review, Tomorrow Studio has spoken to staff, students, parents, and members of our wider community but wants to hear from more current parents.

We invite you to take an anonymous, [five-minute survey](#) to share your thoughts.

We hope to hear from at least 200 College families as your feedback will inform the next stage of the review and any refinements regarding how College presents itself.

Thank you for your support.

Staff update

Felicity Giddens

Day Matron and Assistant to the Housemaster

Felicity Giddens has joined Christ's College as Flower's House Day Matron. She has extensive experience working with young people and their families, with a strong focus on pastoral care, wellbeing, and creating a positive, supportive environment. Prior to joining Christ's College, she managed an after-school care programme at Selwyn House School, where she was responsible for the wellbeing and daily care of students, holiday programmes, and working closely with families and the wider community. Having been an international student, she understands the experience and challenges of living away from home and adapting to new environments. Originally from Argentina, Felicity has lived in New Zealand for 18 years. She is also fluent in Spanish and French.

Sophie Strachan

Rowing Convenor

A well-known coach, international umpire, team manager, and former rower, Sophie Strachan has joined Christ's College as the Rowing Convenor. Sophie has held volunteer roles as a race official at regattas for more than 10 years, and been involved in club and secondary school rowing programmes for more than 20 years. She is also a licensed World Rowing umpire, having officiated at the World Cup II in Lucerne, Switzerland in 2025, and the U19 World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria this year after qualifying as an International Technical Official in 2023. Alongside a professional career as a landscape architect for 17 years, Sophie is also an executive member of the Canterbury Rowing Association and Chair of South Island Rowing.

Chris Waugh

We have bid farewell to our Head of Department – English, Chris Waugh, who has been appointed Deputy Principal of Rangitoto College, the largest school in New Zealand. Since joining Christ's College in 2021, Chris has proved to be an excellent and inspirational English teacher and Head of Department. Following his departure, Liz Hay joins Christ's College in a fixed-term role as an English and Media Studies teacher in Term 4.

New appointments

With Chris Sellars retiring, a new Careers Advisor will be appointed in Term 4 to start in the role next year. And with Kevin Harris opting to step down as Richards House Housemaster at the end of the year, a new Housemaster will be announced this term.

Summer uniform (Terms 4 and 1)

All students are expected to wear the summer uniform when they return to school. It consists of black shorts, with a black belt, and short black socks with two white stripes. Boys can wear long trousers in summer if they wish. When shirt sleeves are rolled up, they must sit neatly above the elbows. Students must wear blazers to Chapel on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and to Assembly. Suits are to be worn to Sunday Chapel and Prize-giving.

Looking smart for Term 4

Please ensure that all boys return to school clean shaven and with the appropriate haircuts and hair lengths. Click [here](#) for further guidelines.



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 2027 [Vehicle Permission Form](#) for dayboys and boarders so that we have all vehicle details.

Enrolments

With the ongoing demand for places at Christ's College, 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](#).

End-of-year textbook returns

All textbooks and English class novels are due back on Wednesday 25 November, before the end-of-year activities start. Families will be billed for any books not returned by this date. Students will receive automated reminders in the lead-up to the final date.

The only exception is students sitting the Scholarship Japanese exam, who may keep *Senior Obento* until Wednesday 2 December. Those students need to inform the librarians by Wednesday 25 November if they wish to keep that textbook for exam revision.

End-of-year celebrations by House

Harper House Dinner

Tuesday 13 October – [book here](#)

Rolleston House Dinner

Wednesday 14 October – [book here](#)

Condell's House Dinner

Thursday 15 October – [book here](#)

School House Dinner

Friday 23 October – [book here](#)

Julius House Dinner

Tuesday 27 October – [book here](#)

Corfe House Dinner

Wednesday 28 October – [book here](#)

Jacobs House Dinner

Thursday 29 October – [book here](#)

Richards House Dinner

Friday 30 October – [book here](#)

Somes House Dinner

Friday 30 October – [book here](#)

Flower's House Prize-giving

Thursday 3 December

Leaving College?

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

Tickets on sale now

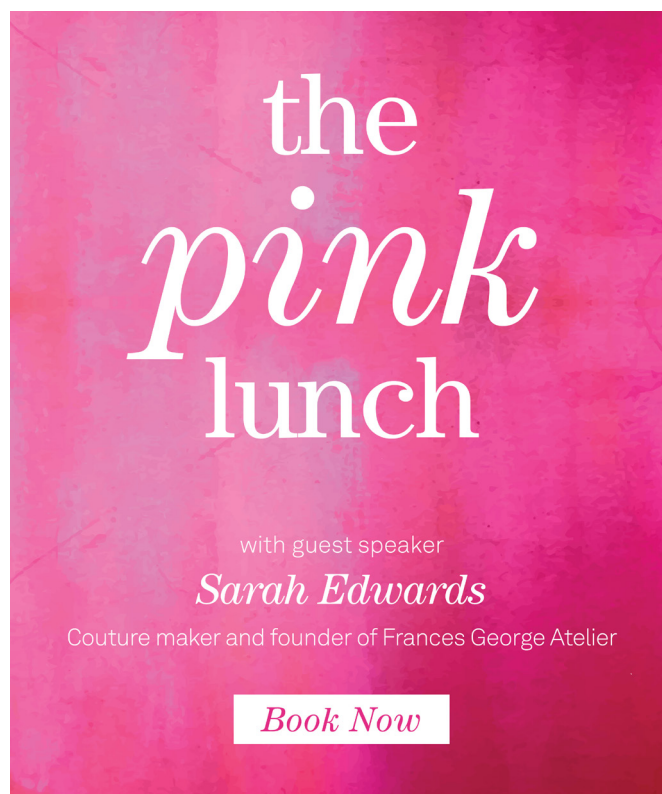
The Pink Lunch

The Christ's College Parents' Association invites you to one of the most anticipated events on the College calendar – The Pink Lunch. Join us on Friday 23 October, from 12–2pm in the Christ's College Dining Hall, for a very special gathering. Everyone is welcome and it's always a fun event.

Your \$65 ticket includes a delicious lunch and beverages, along with a donation to Breast Cancer NZ. You can meet other College mothers, reconnect with friends or make new ones, and enjoy time together in wonderful company.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome guest speaker Sarah Edwards, founder of Frances George Atelier – the creator of beautifully crafted bespoke leather shoes and bags. Sarah melds a love of luxurious materials, meticulous craftsmanship, and the magic of creating a special piece entirely by hand. Her story is one of curiosity, creativity, unexpected adventures, and the many possibilities that can unfold over a lifetime.

Don't miss out on this wonderful event. [Book](#) your tickets today.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Don't miss our joint junior production with Rangī Ruru Girls' School, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, from Tuesday 3 November–Saturday 7 November in our Old Boys' Theatre.

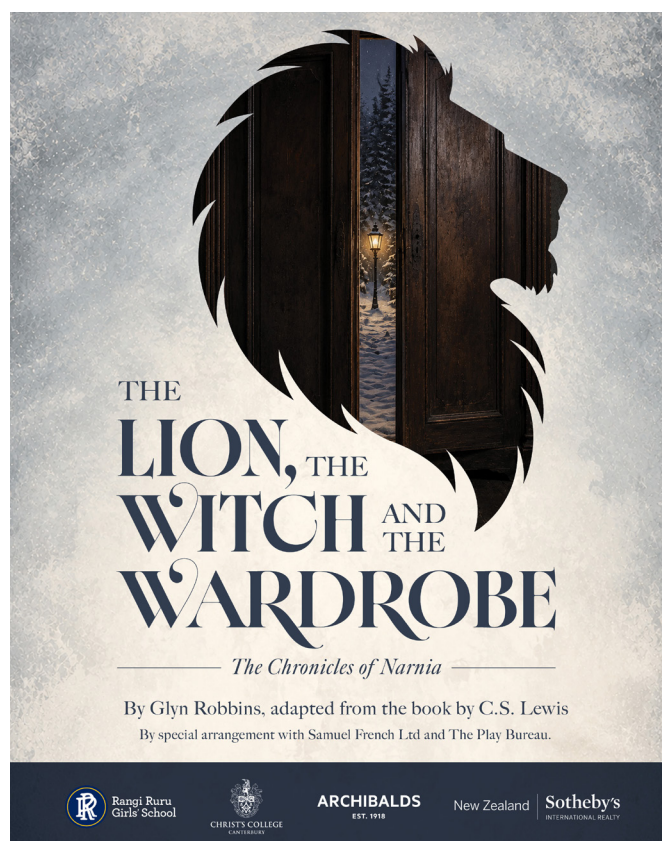
We are delighted to present a much-loved children's classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, in an enchanting, action-packed stage production. Step through the magical wardrobe and into the icy wonderland of Narnia, where the Pevensie siblings discover a realm trapped in an endless winter and caught in a power struggle between the evil White Witch and the legendary protector Aslan. What begins as an escape from the realities of wartime London soon becomes an unexpected adventure where the children must leave behind their ordinary lives.

Our stage adaptation promises to be anything but ordinary as we transport you from the Old Boys' Theatre into the extraordinary world of Narnia. Prepare yourselves for a high-energy, fun show filled with physical theatre, stage combat, and magic – not to mention a very special puppet! Our young adventurers will be helped along their journey by a family of benevolent beavers, the mysterious Mr Tumnus, and a host of mythical forest creatures. Don't miss your chance to see our talented young performers bring these wonderful inhabitants of Narnia to life. There will be something to delight and surprise audiences of all ages as we reimagine this timeless tale for the next generation.

At the heart of this play is our brilliant junior ensemble, a diligent troupe of actors who have challenged themselves, developed their performance skills, and experienced the power of working together to create something truly special.

We invite parents, families, friends, and members of our school communities to rediscover the magic of Narnia for yourselves. Come and support our young actors as they take audiences on a thrilling journey through a world of fantasy, danger, friendship, and bravery.

The adventure awaits. Will you step through the wardrobe with us? [Book](#) your tickets now.



Sedley Wells Music Competition

Our renowned annual Sedley Wells Music Competition again takes centre stage from Monday 19 October–Tuesday 20 October in the Assembly Hall.

Over two unforgettable evenings, the boys will share their artistry and passion for music while experiencing the thrill of live competition. We hope you will join us to support our students and marvel at their mastery and commitment.

It's also a wonderful opportunity to listen to those amazing boys who will benefit from our [Annual Appeal](#) – Keeping music at the heart of College. The appeal will help shape the future of music at Christ's College, including the Music School facilities.

We will also welcome Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Chief Executive Dr Graham Sattler as our guest judge this year for the Sedley Wells Music Competition.

On Monday 19 October at 7pm, the Sedley Wells vocal categories (junior and senior) feature, followed by the instrumental categories on Tuesday 20 October at 5pm. Each event brings inspiration and excellence in equal measure. We would love to see you there.

Please encourage your son to [sign up](#) (student email required) for one of the four categories (junior vocal, senior vocal, junior instrumental, and senior instrumental), and [read](#) the competition rules.



sedley wells
music competition

Monday 19–Tuesday 20 October,
Christ's College Assembly Hall

Everyone's welcome

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 ongoing support to boys, offering occasional weekend visits, providing transport to appointments (such as seeing a dentist), and welcoming a student to their home if a boarding house needs to close for a period. Caregiver guidelines are provided for this paid role.

For those families willing to host an international student during the school holidays, it is an opportunity to establish global connections while learning 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.

Community Visits

Please go to the [Upcoming Events](#) page on the College website for more details.

Tuesday 20 October

South Canterbury Community Visit

Wednesday 21 October

Mid Canterbury Community Visit

Wednesday 4 November

Nelson Community Visit

Thursday 5 November

Blenheim Community Visit

Tuesday 17 November

Wanaka Community Visit

2027 Prefects



Louis Sharr (C)
Head Prefect



Ollie Trollip (Ro)
Deputy Head Prefect



Arthur Brown (S)
Deputy Head Prefect
(Boarding)



Matthew Vance
HoH – Condell's



Cole Moffatt
HoH – Corfe



Max Hindmarsh
HoH – Flower's



Alex Lascelles
HoH – Harper



Louis Hiatt
HoH – Jacobs



Jai Ferguson
HoH – Julius



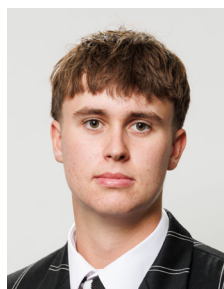
Henry Handyside
HoH – Richards



Ollie Slabbert
HoH – Rolleston



Jono Simpson
HoH – School



Will Coughlan
HoH – Some



**Sebastian Wynn
Thomas (H)**
Head of Academic



Alex Johnstone (Cf)
Head of Arts



Alfie McLean (So)
Head of Biculturalism



Augustus Elworthy (J)
Head of Chapel Choir/
Chapel Prefect



George Currie (F)
Chapel Prefect



Paddy Laidlaw (H)
Chapel Prefect



Newman Hao (H)
Head of Environment



Charlie Syme (F)
Head of International/
Round Square



Max Hillyer (Ro)
Head of Music



Hugh Davis (F)
Head of Service



Harry Blakely (Ja)
Head of Sport



Max Nelson (S)
Head of Student
Leadership



Toby Sharr (C)
Head of Student
Wellbeing