

WELCOME TO TERM 2

FROM EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL GARTH WYNNE



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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers

During the holiday break, Japanese teacher Steve Everingham and I had the privilege and pleasure of being guests at the centenary celebrations of our sister school Konan Boys' High School in Kobe, Japan. Although just a little too late for the full beauty of cherry blossom season, the Konan campus still felt like an oasis of green, framed by the Rokko mountain range and overlooking the megalopolis of Kobe and Osaka out to Osaka Bay. Our hosts were generous and kind and we thoroughly enjoyed our time in their company.

One of the big initiatives Konan has introduced in its centenary year is the Konan Oral History Project, where current students interview Old Boys and record their recollections, experiences and advice for the future. They are creating a rich archive and resource for their community, and it is fascinating to reflect on how much the world has changed. I could not help but think that such a programme could bring real personality to our upcoming 175th celebrations in 2025.

College has long fostered its relationship with Konan and other schools around the world, and our recent membership of Round Square opens up many new opportunities. The benefits of such relationships are substantial, leading to better long-term cultural understanding, more educational exchanges and, above all, friendship. In early April, two groups from College headed overseas to attend Round Square Australasia and East Asia regional conferences – one to Shenzhen, China, and the other to Woodleigh School, Melbourne.

By all accounts, everyone had an amazing time. Such experiences are an ideal way for our boys to develop global competence, one of the character attributes of the ideal College graduate and essential in order to successfully navigate modern life.



Your College Needs You

Thank you to all who have already contributed to our *For the boys. For our future.* campaign. Your gift is truly priceless. We are now in the final push of the campaign. Our Development team has been working hard to engage with our community and find potential donors, and we are still hopeful we can achieve our target of \$7.5 million by June.

The first step in our infrastructure master plan is to build the Sporting Excellence, Health & Wellbeing Centre. This state-of-the-art facility will enable us to deliver ever more beneficial outcomes for future generations. Building it, however, is contingent on the success of the campaign.

If we can raise sufficient funds, we anticipate the Centre will be underway by

2020. If not, the Board of Governors will not give the project the green light and we will have to go back to the drawing board. Only with your generous support can we realise our bold vision for College's future.

How you can help

Every gift counts and all levels of support are gratefully received. Simply pledge your support now, with your donation being called on when the Centre progresses. You can make a one-off donation or split your gift over a set number of years. There are significant naming rights opportunities for the most substantial donations. For more information, contact Director of Development Ric Fletcher on 03 366 8705 or at fortheboys@christscollge.com

Our Strategic Themes

We place the Strategic Themes outlined in our Strategy 2020 document at the forefront of everything we do and it is encouraging to see how these themes have started to percolate through and influence the culture of the school.

Health and Wellbeing

Our focus on health and wellbeing as part of our pastoral care and Positive Education programmes has been a change for good and, as a result, College is becoming a more caring and inclusive environment.

As well as focusing on the boys, we also want the broader community of College to benefit. Consequently, we have a number of interesting Parent Education evenings coming up in Term 2. Comedian turned mental health campaigner, Mike King will be at College in May, sharing his experience with mental illness and addiction and his insights into the problems faced by young people today. His "Community Korero" is sure to get us all talking. Book on the [Upcoming Events page](#). His visit will mark College's participation in Gumboot Day, a fundraiser started by Mike and recently celebrated nationally. I encourage all boys to wear gumboots on Tuesday 21 May and bring a gold coin donation. In June, clinical psychologist Dr Sarah Antich will join the dots between neuroscience and Positive Education, and drug and alcohol researcher and educator Paul Dillon will be back with another dose of practical parenting advice.

Looking ahead, early in Term 3 psychologist and broadcaster Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will visit. Michael is the brains behind [SchoolTV](#) and has vast experience in adolescent health and wellbeing. To help keep parents up to date with relevant and useful information we have developed a [Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) website page. We regularly update this page and hope you find the content useful.

Personalisation

Our mission is *Each boy at his best*. Our ideal is to create a personalised learning environment where we work with the boys so they identify their strengths and abilities and have the confidence and commitment to pursue their learning goals – whether that be in class led by a teacher or independently when their teacher is absent. Our academic programme caters for a wide range of abilities and we believe every boy has the opportunity to grow toward learning independence.

Two recent examples of achieving excellence in education are 2018 graduates Wills Wynn Thomas and Josh Murison. Wills was Academic Head of School – or Dux – and he will start his undergraduate degree at the University of Cambridge later in the year, after receiving a prestigious Sir Douglas Myers Scholarship. It is a fantastic opportunity and Wills no doubt has a bright future ahead.

Wills was a Top Subject Scholarship Award winner in 2018, as was Josh. Assistant Principal – Academic Joe Eccleton and I will join Wills and Josh and their families at the Top Scholar Awards Ceremony to be hosted at Parliament in May. Their achievement in reaching this level of success reflects how College creates an environment that enables boys to find support at the right level, at the right time and in individual areas of interest and their ability to work independently toward their goals.

Staff News

Condell's Housemaster **Tony O'Connor** has been granted leave of absence in Terms 2 and 3. A former Olympic rower and successful rowing coach, Tony has been selected to coach the New Zealand Men's Eight. His deputy **Alexandra Robertson** has been appointed Acting Housemaster while he is away, and we welcome back **Tamara Leros**, who will be taking Tony's mathematics classes in his absence.

Executive Assistant Academic Management **Brigitte Morgan** has moved to the Marlborough region. She has been replaced by former ICT Help Desk Technician **Sara Ball**.

After two years as a tutor in our Immerse & Inspire residential programme and a rowing coach, this year guiding our U16 four and eight to gold medals at the national championship, **Anthony McNamara** has decided it is time to return to Australia. We wish him well with his new adventures – including marriage in central Queensland.

Winter Uniform Requirements

Boys are required to wear their dress suit on Monday and Friday during Terms 2 and 3 and for Sunday Chapel services. The sports uniform – with long trousers – is worn on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Community Visit

Don't miss our Ashburton Community Visit on Wednesday 1 May. Everyone's welcome. Whether you are an Old Boy, a past or current parent, or looking to join our community, we'd love to see you. Register [here](#).

Playing with Fire

The senior Drama season, *Playing with Fire*, features two of the twentieth century's most provocative and thought-provoking plays – *The Arsonists*, a black comic parable by Max Frisch, and *Lord of the Flies*, adapted for the stage by Nigel Williams from the book by William Golding – both of which still resonate today.

“Like all good drama, these plays give us an opportunity to examine and question the human condition,” says Assistant Director of Drama and *The Arsonists* director Robyn Peers. “While *The Arsonists* focuses on the need to stand up against evildoers, *Lord of the Flies* turns on what happens when we rip apart the fragile veil of civilisation. Each in its own way reflects the idea that the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

Managing Learning

An on-going challenge for our teaching staff is managing the interruptions that occur to teaching programmes as a result of co-curricular activities, excursions for other subjects, special visits, or teacher absences. It is a conundrum for us all, but reflects the very nature of an independent school where so much is on offer. Such a dynamic programme demands good planning, flexibility and adaptability by all. It is further enabled by the expectation that our boys can work independently as, when and where required.

For a boy to know what to do when he is away or when a teacher is absent has been made much easier with the introduction of Schoolbox as our learning management system. By ensuring academic programmes are available and up-to-date instructions are delivered to each boy, any disruptions have less impact on learning. Boys can just get on with it! Nothing can replace our teachers or classroom time, but online information and guidance has certainly helped make the expectation of independent yet purposeful learning, especially for our older boys, more the norm.

During Term 1, there has been a move to providing more relief cover in the Library, which has seen many boys reintroduced to one of the more pleasant learning environments at College. This continues to be a work in progress as we balance class needs with the expectations of teaching staff and the needs of the boys, but I am encouraged by our beginning and the way we are developing in boys the ability to take charge when the need demands.

Bicultural Development

On my arrival in 2016 the Board of Governors outlined their expectation that College should foster and develop a more biculturally sensitive and educative environment. To date, this has seen the introduction of Te Reo as a compulsory language in Year 9, a greater emphasis on Tikanga Māori protocols and practices, the introduction of a new College Waiata and Haka, and changes in campus signage. Part of our professional learning for teachers has focused on the importance of understanding biculturalism in the New Zealand context. A staff Bicultural Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and in Term 2 students will be invited to join this group, along with parent representatives in Term 3. College has much to do in this space, but we are on the way to developing a programme that will assist our boys to be biculturally competent citizens.

Robyn is working with Year 13 students, plus two female guest actors from Cashmere High School, on *The Arsonists*, which will open on Sunday 12 May for three performances only. Director of Drama David Chambers is juggling two casts of Year 12 students, who will alternate in performances of *Lord of the Flies* on Thursday 16 and Saturday 18, and Friday 17 and Sunday 19 May.

“We’ve got good strong casts and compelling stories. The boys are relishing taking on these action-packed pieces that look at the human capacity for evil,” says David. “In the *Playing with Fire* drama season we’re going all out to develop performance skills in exciting plays designed to both entertain and challenge the audience.”

Term 2 Events

Monday 29 April

ANZAC Commemoration Service

Tuesday 30 April

Parent–student–teacher interviews, Years 11–13, dayboys

Wednesday 1 May

Ashburton Community Visit

Thursday 2 May

Parent–student–teacher interviews, Years 11–13, dayboys

Sunday 5 May

Chapel Service

Tuesday 7 May

Christ's College Parents' Association AGM

Friday 10 May

School House Mother's Day High Tea

Richards House Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday 12–Tuesday 14 May

The Arsonists, Year 13 Drama production

Thursday 16–Sunday 19 May

Lord of the Flies, Year 12 Drama production

Monday 20 May

Parent Education Evening – Mike King

Sunday 26 May

Chapel Service

Wednesday 29 May

Combined Concert – St Margaret's College and Christ's College

Thursday 30 May

College vs Christchurch Boys' High School Rugby Match (at CBHS)

Friday 31 May

Grandparents' Day

Spit Roast and Soup – Boarding Parents and Boys

Tuesday 4 June

Parent Education Evening – Dr Sarah Anticich

Thursday 6–Friday 7 June

Big Sing Regional Finale Concert

Tuesday 11 June

Otago Boys' High School Exchange (at College)

Sunday 16 June

Chapel Service

Thursday 20 June

Parent Education Evening – Paul Dillon

Tuesday 25–Thursday 27 June

Junior Drama production

Sunday 30 June

Chapel Service

Monday 1–Wednesday 3 July

1st XV Quadrangular Tournament (Wellington)

Go to the [Calendar](#) page on the website for more information about College events.