

WELCOME TO TERM 3

FROM GARTH WYNNE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL



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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers

I, along with several other College staff, attended the 2018 International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC) conference hosted at The Southport School (TSS) on the Gold Coast during the school holidays. The venue had particular significance for me as I was a boarding housemaster at TSS prior to my time in Perth.

The theme of the conference – Our Boys, Their Future: Learning to Lead – captured the essence of what all teachers of boys aim to achieve, and I am confident for our staff who attended, that there was a significant balance of challenge and affirmation with regard to what we offer at College.

There was an exceptional range of speakers, both as keynotes and workshop presenters, including Dr Tracy Vaillancourt from Canada, who spoke about the long-term impact of bullying on health and wellbeing, and transgender military officer Catherine McGregor, who mesmerised all delegates with her presentation on leadership, identity and valuing the individual. Workshops were broad in nature and included topics as diverse as Using Student Voice to Shape Student Wellbeing; Tobogganing and Conceptual Physics: The Application of STEM/STEAM-Based Learning; our own Immerse & Inspire programme; and The Urban Farm: Growing Food and Leaders for the 21st Century. They all provoked much thought and conversation.

Of particular relevance to College was the first presentation of results associated with an international project on character programmes in boys' schools, of which we have been a partner. Furthermore, over the next 12 months, two staff members will continue to be involved in action research projects on the theme Boys and Stories: Pathways to Learning. I was particularly pleased, and found it affirming, that our current strategic direction, focused on health and wellbeing and a greater attention to individual outcomes across school life, was at the forefront of educators' minds worldwide. Consequently, I am excited our first parent-mentor-student goal setting conversations will take place on Monday 23 July, as they not only empower our boys to take responsibility for their progress, but also reflect our desire to know them well and work in partnership with their families.

When balanced with our engagement with Round Square, involvement with the IBSC broadens the horizons of and our aspirations for College.



Service in Samoa

They may have given up their term break, but the sacrifice has been worth it for the boys on our international service trip to Samoa. They have had an amazing and rewarding experience helping out in the Samoan community. Here they are sanding playground equipment at the Satitua preschool and in the hills above the village of Lalomanu.



Market Research

Significant with regard to feedback to College will be our Term 3 school survey conducted by MMG Education. This will be the third such survey undertaken by College and reflects our desire to be continually seeking to improve against benchmarks of like schools in our region. The survey gives us direct feedback on every aspect of College operations and helps us to be nimble in our response as we seek to improve our programmes from year to year. We will be asking parents and boys in Years 10, 12 and 13 to complete the survey this year. More information will be available in due course.

In addition, we have engaged market research company The Field Connection to survey a randomly-selected sample of members of our community on various aspects of Christ's College. The Field Connection will be approaching prospective participants over the next couple of weeks. If you are contacted, we appreciate your support and value your opinion – however, we do understand if you are unable to assist at this time.

NCEA Review

There has been significant media attention in recent weeks about the government's NCEA review process. I, along with other educational leaders, have expressed my concern with regard to the timeframe of this very significant review of New Zealand's secondary school qualifications framework. Given the nature of the issue, I am not confident any major alterations to the timetable for consultation will occur before the end of the year. I encourage all parents to participate in this education conversation, and either make a submission or participate in the online survey, which can be found [here](#).

As you are aware, College conducted its own curriculum review during the latter part of 2016 and in early 2017 – and continues to do so on a regular basis. The introduction of new subjects and subtle changes within and across the subjects we currently offer is an element of the work of the Centre for Teaching Excellence & Research and our Heads of Departments. The NCEA review will prompt further consideration of how we can best prepare our students for their futures through what and how we teach.

Staff News

Numeracy specialist Shelly Jackson joins the team in the Learning Centre from the beginning of term. This is a new role focusing on numeracy development. Shelly employs a wide range of strategies to engage with students and build their confidence in this key learning area and has considerable experience creating individually differentiated programmes for students with diverse learning needs.

Andrew MacIennan concluded his fixed term contract with College at the end of Term 2. We thank him for his contribution to the Mathematics department this year.

We welcome back Art History teacher and Assistant Director of Drama Robyn Peers after her sabbatical and wish Director of Drama David Chambers all the best as he heads away for his. David will be back at College mid Term 3.

Parent Engagement

Since the beginning of the year, along with the leadership of the Christ's College Parents' Association (CCPA), we have been working towards a subtle redefining of the role of the CCPA to become both a voice for parents and a hub for the parent community. I invite you to attend the next CCPA meeting on Wednesday 1 August, in the Common Room at 7pm, where Director of Wellbeing & Positive Education John Quinn will give an update on how the programme is unfolding at College.



Key Events in Term 3

Round Square Week – 30 July–3 August

An international themed week where we celebrate diversity and global citizenship.

- Tuesday 31 July – a special international assembly
- Thursday 2 August – food trucks at lunchtime in the Upham Quad and performances from visiting cultural groups. Everyone's welcome.

Christ's College Parents' Association

- Wednesday 1 August, Common Room, 7pm

Director of Wellbeing & Positive Education John Quinn will give an update on wellbeing and positive education initiatives at College.

REACTION House Plays Festival

There is always plenty of adrenaline and nervous energy spilling out into the crowd and a guaranteed great night for performers and audience alike.

- Monday 13 August, Assembly Hall, 6.30–9pm
Julius, Jacobs, Corfe, Rolleston and Condell's
- Thursday 16 August, Assembly Hall, 6.30–9pm
Richards, Harper, School, Somes and Flower's

Centre for Ethics & Spirituality

- Thursday 30 August, Chapman Room, 7.30pm
When good pictures go bad: Public perceptions of private suffering
Vicar of the Anglican Parish of Sumner/Redcliffs, Rev. Thomas C Brauer.

From the American and Spanish civil wars, through the great depression, right up to the conflicts and disasters of today, photography has played a significant role in portraying the violence, suffering and trauma of people's lives. But many question the ethics of this action. Does photography of suffering help grow compassion, or create compassion fatigue? Does photography of violence educate and inform, or perpetuate conflict and pain?

In this presentation, Rev. Brauer will look at how photography and digital media is used to document our lives. The discussion will consider the ethics of taking photographs of people at their most vulnerable and sharing the images with a global audience. (Warning: Some images may be confronting.) Book [here](#).

Chapel Services

- Sunday 29 July, Choral Eucharist
- Sunday 19 August, Evensong
- Sunday 26 August, Choral Eucharist
- Sunday 9 September, Choral Eucharist

Year 9 Father & Son Breakfast

- Saturday 8 September, Dining Hall, 7.30am



Cocktails on the Quad

- Friday 14 September, 7.30pm 'til late

Our biggest community event of the year is always a great night's entertainment. Dress up and dance the night away in the beautifully decorated College marquee. Well known Christchurch covers band Danger Baby play all the hits you know and love. This is for the whole College community – current, past and future families. Everyone's welcome, so get a group together and come along. Book [here](#).

Looking ahead to the end of the year, please mark these dates in your diary:

- Thursday 29 November
Junior prize-giving, Assembly Hall, 3pm
- Thursday 29 November
Carols on the Quad, 6pm. Compulsory for all students.
- Friday 30 November
Senior prize-giving, Assembly Hall, 5.30pm
- Friday 30 November
Leavers' Service, Chapel, 7pm
- Friday 30 November
Leavers' Farewell, Dining Hall or the Quad, 7.30–8.30pm
- Saturday 1 December
Leavers' Ball, 7.30pm

Please note: the timing of our end-of-year celebrations have been adjusted to accommodate NCEA examinations and the Leavers' Farewell at 7.30pm is in place of Lunch on the Quad.