

WELCOME TO TERM 2

FROM GARTH WYNNE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL



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CHRIST'S COLLEGE
CANTERBURY

Each boy at his best.

Dear parents and caregivers

As with every school in New Zealand, the beginning of Term 2 presents some challenges for College. While the country remains in lockdown, we have to be adaptable and flexible, prepare for and manage remote learning and also plan for the time when the school is able to open again.

I see our current situation as similar to that of a person crossing a fast-flowing stream, stepping from stone to stone. Like the adventurer, we must balance safely on our current foothold, knowing we cannot return to the bank we have left – then, after due consideration of all the factors, step forward with certainty, confident we will safely pass through the turbulence that surrounds us.

I will be forever grateful for the incredible support our community has received during this time. The work of the Executive team and our teaching staff as they have prepared for Term 2 has been exceptional, and I know the boys will respond to our next step in a positive, self-disciplined and constructive manner.

Our aims at this time are clear: to ensure the outcome of 2020 for all students is not compromised; to maintain every boy at College for the duration of the year; to

maintain all our staff; and to support through our actions the wellbeing of our entire community.

For parents – I ask that you be supportive of your boys (especially our younger students) as they learn to navigate the expectations and demands of remote learning. It is likely to be challenging and the boys will need your guidance and help. Please be patient with them and yourselves ... we will all get through.

For boys – I ask that you see this new paradigm as an opportunity to develop your skills in time management, resilience, perseverance and dedication. Please respect your teachers who are, like you, juggling their home environment and their work in new and different ways, and please respect your parents who are, as ever, willing to help and support you at this time.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has signalled she may be able to announce changes in school circumstances on Monday 20 April, and we will respond as appropriate at the time. We are conscious there is a lack of clarity around when the school might physically reopen and when our boarding community can return, but we hope this will soon be addressed.

As you will be aware, there are a number of events scheduled to take place in Term 2. At this stage we are unable to advise what will or will not take place, but we hope to be able to update you over the coming weeks.

On Monday 20 April, Term 2 begins with “remote learning”, designed with best practice in mind, informed by the experience of schools both in New Zealand and overseas, and by our own research. We have taken great care in our planning for remote learning, taking into consideration the unknown length of school disruption, doing so in a way that enables us to drop in and out of remote learning as required, and in the knowledge that if necessary we can catch up on work later in the year, as happened after the earthquakes. Remote learning is not regular school and this must be understood by all involved. Our approach, practice and expectations are outlined below by Assistant Principal – Curriculum Nicole Billante.

While we are in this situation, however, we plan to maintain our exceptional pastoral care through Housemasters, mentors and other supports, as outlined below by Deputy Principal Rob Donaldson. As a school, we value good relationships, health and wellbeing, and although we accept we can never completely match the personal with the virtual, we intend to try.

Finally, the Board of Governors and Executive team have been considering the financial implications of these exceptional circumstances and applicable compensation for our families. These and other financial considerations are outlined below by Director of Finance & Operations Rob McFarlane.

Curriculum and Timetable

Assistant Principal – Curriculum
Nicole Billante

We commence remote learning on Monday 20 April 2020. The format and structure of Christ’s College remote learning is designed to enable the best learning outcomes for your sons based on educational research and the rapidly evolving best practice that is arising from this current environment. We have also considered a framework that can adapt to the timeframe dictated by the Government or that can be implemented quickly in future should the need arise.

Remote learning cannot and should not try to mimic a traditional classroom environment or timetable. The nature of what can be taught and how it is taught is, quite simply, different. Remote learning has **two components**: independent work and “online” class time.

Every teacher will assign learning activities through Schoolbox – and Schoolbox is where all students should begin and end their day during our period of remote learning. Students are expected to use the tools, information, and tasks set by their teachers to develop their skills and understanding during their time of independent study each day and evening. Students will then have timetabled online class time with teachers, which are designed as an opportunity to check student understanding and provide key feedback and next steps. For further information on what this may look like for your son, please [click here](#) to view our guides to remote learning for parents and boys.

Should your internet connection compromise your son’s learning experience, please ask

him to email or ring his Housemaster so a solution can be found. College has a supply of Chromebooks that can be dispatched to boys who have a broken or damaged laptop. If needed, please contact the Digital Services Team during normal office hours, on 03 364 6888.

Remote learning aims to provide a realistic balance for the students. As a school that believes strongly in student wellbeing, we recognise that a full school day in front of a computer is not in the best interests of our boys’ health or their learning. This is one of the reasons we are limiting online classes to half-hour blocks of time and three online classes a day. We are also encouraging our teachers to set learning activities for independent study that are not always dependent on laptops.

During independent study times, boys should be working through the learning tasks from Schoolbox, as well as building in time for fresh air and exercise. Parents of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students will note they have timetabled “physical activity” where they would otherwise have PE – and on Schoolbox they will find a number of suggested activities from the PE Department. During independent study time teachers will be focusing on direct student feedback and preparing online learning tasks that are meaningful to advancing student learning. Our online conference tool – Google Meet – is also available for small group tuition at times outside of timetabled classes, where appropriate.

For senior students, the focus remains on ensuring their readiness for and achievement in NCEA. Where assessment is possible, this will be conducted remotely. Our teachers have amended the timing of their programmes where necessary, focusing on examination content if internal assessment is not practical at this time. NZQA also

continues to develop resources for teachers to ensure no student is disadvantaged by remote learning.

We understand independent learning will be daunting for some of our students. We trust that the great relationships students have already developed in the classroom will enable them to feel comfortable to reach out to teachers when they need help. Our Learning Centre is on hand to help students who need assistance. Housemasters and mentors are also available as significant points of contact for advice and guidance.

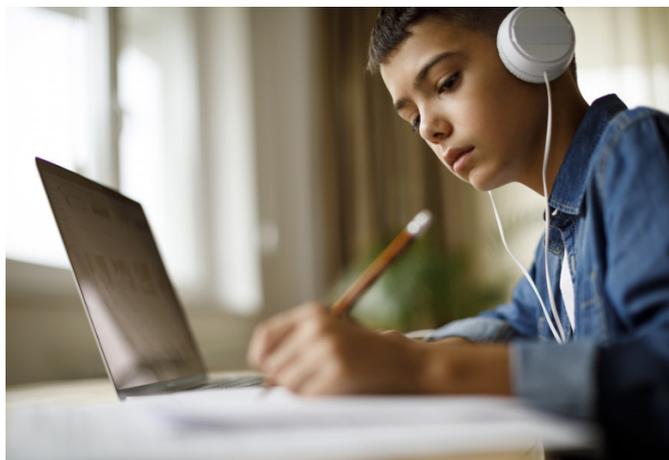
While the learning environment may be new, the skills and expertise of our teachers remains the same, and we have every confidence this period of remote learning will be a productive one.

Itinerant Teachers (Music & Drama)

Some itinerant teachers may have been in touch with their students and already started or plan to start remote online lessons. If your son hasn’t heard from his teacher, please ask him to contact them.

Uniform Shop

While we remain at Alert Level 4 all educational facilities and non-essential businesses, including our Uniform Shop, are closed. However, if you wish to place an order or would like to arrange an appointment for when the lockdown ends, please email uniforms@christscollege.com detailing what you need and giving a contact name and phone number. We will respond to you as soon as we can.



House, Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Deputy Principal Rob Donaldson

We aim to maintain and develop strong relationships with, and support for, students and parents during social isolation, notwithstanding the communication challenges posed by the circumstances.

With this in mind, please do not hesitate to contact your son's Housemaster if you have concerns about anything, including your son's ability to manage remote learning. In turn, Housemasters will contact you if they have issues to discuss relating to your son's progress and wellbeing.

Housemasters are very keen to foster a sense of community, belonging and House identity, even though the boys are not on campus. They will use the House page and their Housemaster's blog for this purpose, as well as contact with individual students in the House, as required. The boys will start their day by "logging in" to their House page, so they can see key messages.

We will maintain another layer of support, provided by your son's mentor, by running a mentor meeting each week during the period of remote learning. These will take place on Wednesday from 9.30–9.50am. Mentors will ask boys to join a Google Meet in their mentor groups.

Furthermore, our counselling and wellbeing team is, as always, willing to help boys with any issues and challenges they may face. If this support is needed, you or your son should email Sarah, Emily or John directly and set up a virtual meeting or phone call.

Dr Sarah Anticich – santicich@christscollege.com
Emily Baird – ebaird@christscollege.com
John Quinn – jquinn@christscollege.com

We will also continue to post wellbeing resources, specifically in relation to the challenges posed by Covid-19, on our Student Wellbeing page on Schoolbox. The link for boys is:

<https://schoolbox.christscollege.com/homepage/3041>

On a positive note, the pandemic has provided boys and families with opportunities to forge stronger bonds, solve problems, develop resilience and foster adaptability. All of this is supported by our emphasis on hauora, wellbeing, mindfulness, character strengths, gratitude, resilience, positive psychology and spirituality.

Financial Update

Director of Finance & Operations Rob McFarlane

On Monday 6 April, College sent the March statements outlining the amount due for payment on Monday 20 April. As is our practice, we will arrange the monthly direct debit on your behalf. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact me – rmcfarlane@christscollege.com – as soon as possible.

Since our initial updates about Covid-19, we have taken the opportunity to consider how best to respond with regard to College fees.

The Board of Governors is committed to providing an excellent standard of education and pastoral care in the remote learning context, but acknowledges this poses some challenges. At this time, we are unable to deliver "business as usual", especially in aspects of our rich co-curricular programme.

We have therefore determined that from Monday 20 April 2020 and for each day we are unable to provide our usual programme at College:

- We will refund 17% of our tuition fee on a per day basis during the time of remote learning (at 17% this is equivalent to an annualised sum of \$4,500 inclusive of GST)
- Boarding fees will be credited for days our boarding Houses are closed
- Students awarded scholarships will continue to receive these as usual

All credits will be applied at the end of the month when the number of days to be credited for that month is known. For example, there are 21 standard school days in the month of May and let us assume the campus is closed for five of these school days and the boarding Houses for seven days. We will invoice the full monthly charge for May at the end of April, so we can raise the direct debit for payment in May. On Monday 20 May, as is standard practice, we will deduct the amount from your bank account.

At May month end we will calculate the number of days the campus was closed and, in the case of the above example, pass on the 17% tuition credit for five days and boarding credit, if applicable, for seven days. At this time we will also raise the monthly invoice for June, and the net balance will be charged to your bank account on 20 June.

Following the school's closure at 3.35pm on Monday 23 March a credit will be raised to each family's College account at the end of April for:

- Boarding fees, if applicable, at \$70 (GST inclusive) per day for 12 days to the scheduled end of term at midday on Saturday 4 April
- Prepaid dayboy lunches at \$10 (GST inclusive) per day for the last nine days to the scheduled end of term on Friday 3 April

Many cultural and sporting events have been cancelled and we are working through the insurance and net financial consequences of each with a view to crediting your College account with the balance. While we await a response from our insurers, we will assess if we can return a portion of any deposits or instalments made by you to you, by way of a credit to your College account, which can be used to offset monthly tuition fees.