

Christ Church Grammar School 2016 Chronicle



Christ Church
Grammar School



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Chronicle is an annual magazine for past, present and future parents, alumni and friends of Christ Church Grammar School. It reflects an energetic and diverse school community and how it works together to motivate boys to achieve their best.

Editor: Joanne Wheeler

Writer: Vanessa Reside

Contributors: CCGS Teachers

Proofreading: Vanessa Reside

Photographers: Gavin Blue, Rob Johnson, Vanessa Reside, teachers, parents and boys

Design: imageseven

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Principal - Alan Jones

Carol and I arrived in Perth at the start of the new year so that I could commence my role as the new and first Principal of Christ Church Grammar School.

To be serving this great educational community is an honour. In the short time that I have been part of the Christ Church community, I am already struck by the way in which the School allows young men to become their very best.

The fundamental values of good schooling have not really changed overtime, but it is through the creation of exceptional learning experiences combined with energetic, dedicated staff that results become a reality.

Christ Church has constructed a wonderful learning program that blends rigor and 'experience through doing', and I am absolutely dedicated to ensuring the School maintains this balance.

The rich and diverse co-curricular program is an important part of developing the all-round student and is a personal passion of mine. I know how important it is to create learning experiences that will allow our boys to operate and succeed in their globalised world.

The images and stories contained in this edition of *Chronicle* perfectly reflect the above, and demonstrate the boys' energy and vitality in a really refreshing way.

I would like to thank the entire school community for the warm welcome Carol and I have received. This is the start of a remarkable journey and I look forward to meeting you over the coming months.





Play with purpose

Pre-Primary is about play with purpose, where boys explore, discover, question and investigate the world around them. The boys are guided in developing a love of learning through deep engagement in authentic learning experiences.

Inspired by the desire to build a 'hide out' in the playground, the Pre-Primary boys set about building a 'real' cubby. Embracing this opportunity for multiple learning experiences within a meaningful and purposeful context, our Pre-Primary teaching team constructed a plan to turn the boys' ideas into reality.

Research and design

The first step of the project was for the boys to use iPads to research different types of cubbies and gather ideas. They then drew and labelled their own designs, which included tree houses with swings, underground tunnels, secret entrances, ladders and many other innovative applications. To encourage higher order thinking the boys were asked to share how they would make their design stand up, what materials they might use and what problems they might encounter during the construction process.



After discussing the process of building houses, the boys created a set of building plans, requiring them to measure the site and develop their designs into plans. Small-scale models were also made based on the designs, providing creative expression and problem solving. After much discussion it was decided that teepees would be the best fit for the space as well as the most practical to build.



... deep engagement in authentic learning experiences.



Building

The exciting building phase then began. The boys recognised they would need assistance, so they wrote to their parents asking for help with the construction process. The response was fantastic and the boys were very grateful to have parents and grandparents work alongside them to erect poles, dig holes, mix cement and provide moral support during a flurry of fun afternoon action.

The next stage of the project saw the boys attach wire and brushwood to the teepee frames, learn how to use a hammer effectively and hold a nail without hitting their fingers. Boys are often active, hands-on learners who naturally seek out opportunities to learn by doing. By providing 'real work,' they were curious and keen to 'have a go,' providing many valuable learning opportunities.

Instructional and letter writing text types, formal units of measurement to mark out the building site, the concept of a verb (dig, mix, join) and concepts of shape (discussing why triangles are the strongest shape) were introduced throughout the project. Along with this, some of the most reluctant writers were inspired by the true purpose to write.

Children are naturally inquisitive, curious learners and if their interests are harnessed, the learning flame is easily sparked. By giving the boys ownership of the project, they felt their ideas were valued and heard. This is a key element in engaging boys in our Pre-Primary curriculum.

"You should dig holes and use cement to make it stand up. Also tie it with a rope at the top." Hayden

"I liked when Dad came to help and put the cement in." Sam

"My favourite part of building the teepees was when we got to hammer the nails in." Terrence



... if their interests are harnessed, the learning flame is easily sparked.

Personal and Spiritual Development

The personal and spiritual development of Christ Church boys is nurtured through a range of programs in the Preparatory School. PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) and Aussie Optimism teach boys how to regulate their emotional responses and develop a positive outlook. These approaches improve social competence, happiness and learning in children.

The preparatory boys have an opportunity to share their learning during class assemblies. Demonstrating the strong problem-solving and resilience strategies learnt during the PATHS program, the Year 2 boys created a fun and informative performance identifying the strategies they liked to use in difficult situations.

Taking to the stage as world leaders, Ghost Busters, Batman and Superman, the boys told the audience, "there is a hero in all of us."

The performance encouraged the boys to be positive and confident while highlighting the importance of having a friend.

"Friends can be our heroes. We don't need Batman to save us."

"Our friends can help us realise that we are great at what we do and they make us feel better when we are down."

Year 2 Teacher Brooke Gonnella said the performance helped remind the boys that while they may feel anxious about events or activities in their lives, they have problem-solving strategies such as the traffic light system and their friends to remind them that they can all be outstanding - just like a superhero.



These approaches improve social competence, happiness and learning in children.



The Big Write

Each week, the lights in the Year 1 classrooms are dimmed and the gentle sounds of Mozart can be heard drifting through the Prep School. The boys are hard at work, thinking and writing, creating and documenting. Their teachers have created a mood conducive to learning and a time for uninterrupted writing - the Big Write.

Research indicates that in comparison to girls, boys have a relative strength in mathematics and a relative

weakness in spelling and writing. The Preparatory School has responded to this by developing a program to enhance writing skills and create positive writing experiences for all boys.

Boys are encouraged to complete 'talk homework' before their Big Write sessions. This involves chatting to their family members about ideas for their writing, based upon research that indicates a child can more confidently write something if they have first verbalised it.

Year 1 Teacher, Jenny Joseph said the Big Write sessions are incredibly popular.

"The boys have the opportunity to prepare their writing without knowing they are doing so. They talk with their families, then again with their friends and before they know it, they have completed a fabulous piece of written work."



Deep and logical thinking

The mix of philosophy and preparatory boys does not immediately conjure conversations about power, control, courage, democracy, greatness, loss, death, God and the meaning of life.

Christ Church boys in Pre-Primary to Year 4 immerse themselves in these 'big ideas' with enthusiasm for discussion of life's mysteries being a very powerful outcome.

They are encouraged to think deeply and logically, being respectful of the opinions of others as they question, change their minds and develop arguments. Philosophical inquiry is intimately linked to creativity, as boys generate novel ideas, look at existing ideas and situations in new ways and identify alternatives. Being open-minded and having intellectual flexibility with the willingness to try new ways of thinking about ideas is a great start to an academic career – and pure joy if you are under 10.

Barbara Bosich, Assistant Director of Pedagogy said the boys are quite amazing in their capacity to find links to their own world knowledge.

"Boys take the discussions home and report on expansive dinner table conversations. There is very little that is out of bounds as we discuss refugees, land rights and fear, with most of these topics coming from stunning children's literature and our spirited conversations," she said.



"I really enjoy Philosophy because we argue and have fun at the same time."

"I learnt that some important questions have no correct answers."

"Big thinking is important. I learnt not to hold back. I learnt that there is not a right or wrong answer."

"In Philosophy I really enjoy debating ideas, seeing another's point of view and learning about unanswered questions in life."

Launchpad builds new friendships

Launchpad is an initiative in the Preparatory School designed to give incoming boys an opportunity to see the School, meet teachers and get to know others in a fun and relaxed environment.

Launchpad encourages boys to work together on a variety of projects, allowing them to build relationships in the hope that it will make their transition to Christ Church seamless.

Richard Wright, Head of the Preparatory School, said it is a terrific day that provides boys with an introduction to life at Christ Church and the various activities they can expect to enjoy.

"The boys left Christ Church happy, exhausted and with enthusiasm to return. I heard one boy ask his mum, *can I please come back tomorrow?*"

The boys take part in a variety of workshops. These include an artistic project with Abigail Callow, a sporting adventure with Brady Leckie, a musical endeavour with Stephanie Harford and an introduction to Languages Other Than English (LOTE) with Li Liu.

While on campus, the boys have the opportunity to meet special guests invited to assist, including Mathilda Carmichael from the Hockeyroos and Australian ultimate frisbee players Annie Jessop and Kyal Oh.



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Team building

Building a sense of belonging among boys is a priority at the beginning of the school year. In Term 1 the Year 4 boys participate in a team-building day, which creates a sense of belonging while developing each boy's teamwork, friend-making skills and personal resilience.

During the day-long event run by Teamworks Development Australia at HBF stadium, the boys complete the *Tips for Success* program. Sarah Stone, Year 3 and 4 Learning Co-ordinator describes the day as a challenging activity where the boys work together to solve problems or support each other in a physical challenge.

"As Year 4 is an intake year, half of the cohort is new and it can take time for the boys to become known to each other, establish friendships and feel part of the community. The aim of the day is to help facilitate a quick 'settling in' period and strengthen relationships with other boys, as well as teachers, early in the year," she said.

Ms Stone said she hoped the day would benefit the boys in establishing effective relationships and friendships, teach boys how to be supportive 'mates' and increase levels of resilience.

"The Year 4 teachers will use the experiences of the day as a common language and reference point when teaching elements of the PATHS, virtues and health programs."



Embracing the digital age

Coding in the early years

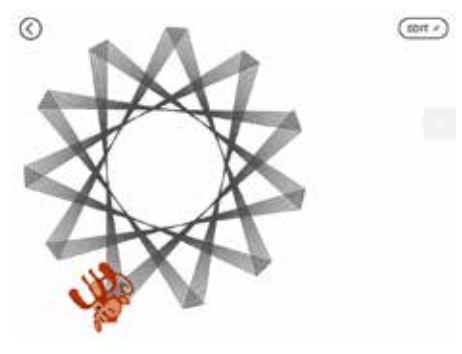
The Turnbull government's innovation statement in December committed \$51 million over five years to help Australian students embrace the digital age, as well as promising expert help for teachers implementing the digital technologies agenda.

"Coding is not just about learning a new skill – it's about learning how to think critically and solve problems," he said. "These are the most important skills to have in the 21st century."

Futurist Thomas Frey echoes this and predicts that by 2030, 20 per cent of all jobs will consider basic computer programming to be a core skill.

As a part of the International Boys School Coalition (IBSC) Action Research, Year 3 and 4 Co-ordinator, Sarah Stone investigated how using the coding app Hopscotch, could enhance the creative thinking skills for Year 4 boys. This transpired into more than using creative thinking skills and many by-products were discovered along the way. The project fostered mathematical discussions, perseverance, planning, sharing, collaborating, story writing, publishing, editing, fun and engagement.

Hopscotch is a visual programming language, designed to allow young or beginner programmers to develop simple projects. It is a basic introduction to coding, as it allows users to drag and drop blocks to create scripts, which can be played when activated.



As a basis for the project, the boys were shown skills and provided challenges to assist their knowledge development. They were shown basic movement and provided an interface introduction. Hopscotch allows the operator to use a variety of ways to make code, allowing for tasks to be open-ended and cultivate rich problem solving skills. During their sessions, the boys shared with their peers with great energy and excitement. By allowing time for the boys to experiment freely, they learned very quickly how to manipulate objects and use the program efficiently.

Once the basic coding skills and ideas were mastered, the boys were tasked to create a Dreamtime story. The project incorporated many learning areas and allowed a cross curricular approach.



"Using Hopscotch in this way sets our boys ahead of the Australian Curriculum," said Daniel Budd, eLearning Facilitator. "Programming has clear, fundamental links with mathematics, however, we use this powerful tool for the integration of learning areas and in this case, to foster creativity in the form of digital storytelling."

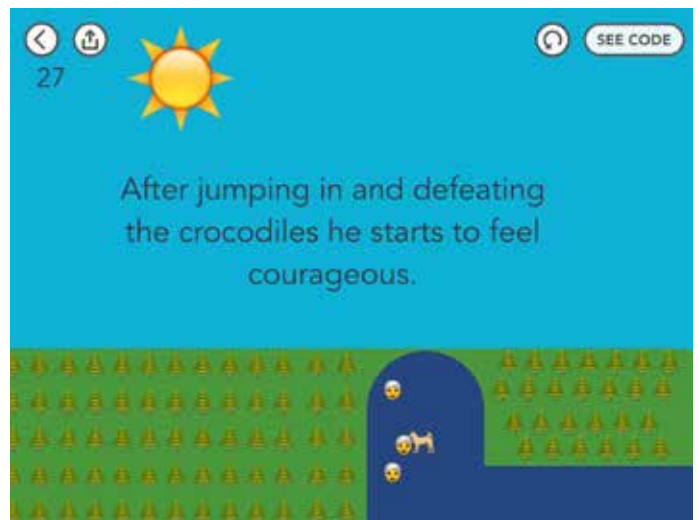
The boys' work was outstanding, exceeding all expectations. As the project was open ended, the boys had the capacity to extend their learning, reach into the unknown and produce work they were proud of. They were in charge of their learning and the possibilities were endless.

"When the boys were interviewed at the completion of the task, their ideas for more coding projects leaped towards Science, History, Music and data tracking in Physical Education. This is the kind of creative problem solving and abstract thinking we encourage in the boys," said Ms Stone.

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When asked about the benefits of Hopscotch, the boys said they enjoyed publishing the projects to the internet and controlling the characters. As Martinez and Stager, authors of *Invent to Learn* (2013) affirm, students quickly learn that they are the most important part of the computer program. Many boys stated that Hopscotch is a 'basic' coding program that is "easy for kids to use." As computer science has influenced nearly every aspect of life over the past half-century (Martinez and Stager, 2013), it is not surprising that one boy identified a benefit of Hopscotch as "learning a life skill."

As creative thinking is a 21st century skill, it is vital to nurture opportunities to be creative. "Creative thinking is expansive, open-ended invention and discovery of possibilities" (Thoughtful Learning, 2014). Hopscotch allows the boys to demonstrate many of the common creative thinking abilities: brainstorming, creating, designing, entertaining, imagining, innovating, problem solving and questioning. It allows them to "have fun while learning" and allows for a very successful integrated learning project.



Prep boy runs away with the Gift

Christ Church is fortunate to have boys from Pre-Primary to Year 12 together on the Claremont campus, allowing for the integration of the Preparatory and Senior Schools for various activities such as mentoring, sporting events, drama productions and whole school assemblies.

One such event is the CCGS Gift, a 100m handicapped sprint race. It is modelled on the iconic Stawell Gift, one of the world's most

famous and prestigious foot races, which is run on grass by athletes' handicapped according to form and ability.

The CCGS Gift takes place annually on the Preparatory School Oval and features the fastest 100m sprinters from Year 5 to 12. Each boy is handicapped according to his year group. They race for glory and the notorious 'Boot Trophy'. Nicholas Tomlinson (Year 6) is the

current champion and arguably the fastest boy at Christ Church, winning the CCGS Gift in 2015.

Head of Physical Education and Health Luke Farmer introduced the Gift in 2010 as a fun way of motivating boys during the athletics season.



Inside the Capital on the Canberra tour



The Canberra tour is an annual trip for boys in Year 6, and an exciting and valuable opportunity for them to spread their wings and enjoy an action-packed tour of Australia's capital city. The tour enables the boys to expand their depth of knowledge and understanding of Australia's democratic system of government.

The boys spend four days immersing themselves in national-level democratic processes, government and law. They visit Canberra's notable attractions and have a fabulous adventure learning together.

Director of Pastoral Care, Planning and Co-Curricular Maria Hodges said the boys show genuine enthusiasm for their knowledge of Australia's parliamentary system when visiting our nation's capital.

"The boys engage in programs and exhibitions with great interest and are regularly commended on their understanding of Australia's heritage, the values that underpin our democracy and the rights and responsibilities of our citizens."

While on tour, the boys have the tremendous privilege of participating in the Last Post ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. During the tour of 2015, the boys formed a guard of honour while students Leo Brown and Christian Wong laid a wreath in honour of those who sacrificed their lives in war.

Stormie Mills inspires young artists



Christ Church Grammar School runs a comprehensive Artist in Residence program.

The arts are deeply valued in the intellectual and emotional development of boys with visual art involvement extending beyond scheduled lesson time to include workshops, visits to galleries, collaborative projects with the Senior School, the Week of the Arts, annual student exhibitions and the Artist in Residence program.

Funded by the Parents' Association, our Artist in Residence program allows the boys to learn from 'masters of their trade,' including Stormie Mills, one of Australia's leading contemporary artists.

"Working alongside Stormie, the boys had direct access to an internationally-acclaimed artist and his authentic art process. It was clear they idolised him and appreciated every moment they had in his presence," said Claire Donald, Art Specialist Teacher.



The boys explored the subject matter of aeroplanes; drawing, painting and detailing their planes with pencil, acrylic paint and fineliner pens.

As well as the outstanding art sessions, the boys relished the opportunity to learn about Stormie's personal journey. They were captured as he recalled his experiences spray painting walls throughout Australia, painting in Los Angeles and being the recipient of the Kids' Choice Prize for his work *The Stormie Mills Project* at Sculpture By the Sea in 2015.

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The making of men

The Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing was established in 2015 to ensure that a new generation of boys learn to make informed decisions regarding holistic good health and wellbeing.

Christ Church has a long history of exceptional pastoral care, always taking into account each boy's physical, mental, emotional, spiritual health and wellbeing as part of his education experience.

Director of the Centre Liam Casson said he was proud of what had already been achieved.

"It has been our intention to introduce our boys and young men to information, followed by wisdom, to expand their paradigm or mission statements and introduce them to a life that includes good health, holistic wellbeing, joy, and fulfillment.

"We have ensured that curriculum-based health and wellbeing programs impacting the students are holistic and evidence-based and the tiered and age-specific approach has been incredibly well received," he said.

The Personal and Spiritual Development program (PSD) involves boys from Pre-Primary to Year 10. It is a skill-based, student-centred program covering a number of important subjects. The Preparatory School offers PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) and Aussie Optimism and is complemented by the Physical Education and Health Education program, as well as the wonderful pastoral program.

In Year 11 and 12 boys learn to take responsibility for their actions and master their chosen pursuits by making positive choices. Visiting experts talk to boys on a range of topics including stress management, smart choices, drugs and alcohol, mental health and cyber safety.

The Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing is also responsible for consolidating the good work being done across the School, and supporting the wider Christ Church community through communication, guest speakers and resources.



It has been our intention to introduce our boys and young men to information, followed by wisdom, to expand their paradigm or mission statements and introduce them to a life that includes good health, holistic wellbeing, joy, and fulfillment.



"Through the support of the Parents' Association we have been able to present highly-regarded national and international guest speakers who offer leadership and expertise in the area of health and wellbeing. Experts such as Dr Michael Kimmell, Jonathan Doyle, Dr Arne Rubinstein, Paul Dillon, Susan McLean and Professor Donna Cross are just some of the high calibre guests Christ Church has hosted in 2015," Mr Casson said.

The centre has implemented mindfulness meditation practice, provides stress management 'lunch and learn' sessions for Year 12 boys and introduced the Smiling Mind app on each boy's iPad in the Senior School.

"At its core, happiness is about fulfilling potential," said Mr Casson. "Research indicates that unhelpful patterns of thinking cannot only be addressed, but also reversed and replaced with more productive patterns. Christ Church boys and their families positively learn from the successful experience of others to help light the way and inspire."

The Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing enables each boy to get to know himself better; his likes and dislikes, beliefs and values, his character strengths, and his hopes for the future. He discovers how to develop himself to fulfil his potential, protecting his health and wellbeing and that of others. This is central to the program at every level.





Languages for a global environment



Christ Church boys leave school to live in an increasingly competitive global environment. In recognition of the need to provide a broad range of skills all Year 7 and 8 boys study French, Japanese or Chinese (Mandarin).

In these courses, boys acquire basic competency in speaking, reading, listening and writing. Through immersion-based learning and special interest topics, boys gain a deeper understanding of linguistic conventions and critically reflect on their own and other cultures and values.

Each year, the School celebrates languages week with cultural lunches, East-West Day, competitions, musical items and guest presenters. Boys take part in a variety of activities designed to extend their language knowledge.

The School year also sees French students visit Marie-Antoinette's café with Madame Gerber where they order breakfast in French, attend the Why We Learn French forum with inspiring guest

speakers and students from across the state, and take part in the Alliance Française poetry competition.

The new Japanese club has been a popular weekly event for the Japanese students and the annual Chinese speaking competition held at the University of Western Australia is always a highlight for the boys who regularly receive awards and high praise.

"Most recently, Christ Church gained first place for Chinese, second place for French and third overall in the International Language Perfect competition. The boys placed in the top eight globally, against 788 schools, an incredible achievement," said Head of Languages, Nicola Griffin-Appadoo.

High resolves

It is a potent lesson for boys to know they are not powerless observers of what is going on around them and that they can choose to act in constructive ways that have a positive impact on the world.

High Resolves is an incursion designed to assist Year 8 Christ Church boys understand global citizenship. The program aims to provide the motivation, capability and confidence needed to become a purposeful global citizen and/or leader.

Les Goh, Head of Humanities said High Resolves is an interactive way for boys to learn how their choices make a difference, positively impacting the community and changing the world.

"The boys are growing up in an increasingly global world and the Global Citizenship program allows boys to reflect on their own situations and start thinking about how they can make a difference in the world through collaboration and teamwork," he said.



The boys take part in interactive games and simulations, role-playing exercises, small group discussions and student-led action projects. They are assisted by a number of older mentors acting as leaders and supporting them during group activities.

"The activities are interesting because they promote co-operation and brain-work, as well as the communication of ideas."

"I learnt that everyone should have access to the same basic human rights and we should all be treated equally, no matter how different we are."

Mathematics students shine

The Mathematics program at Christ Church caters to the diversity and strength of the boys. Support programs bridge the gaps while extension programs encourage boys to become critical and creative thinkers who use mathematics to model and solve authentic problems.



Students have the opportunity to take part in many competitions, such as the MAWA Have Sum Fun Competition, Western Australian Junior Mathematics Olympiad, Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition, Australian Mathematics Competition, Australian Mathematics Olympiad and the AMOC Senior Maths Contest.

Head of Mathematics, Khee Lim said the competitions bring mathematicians from across the country for "mathematical whizzing in atmospheres which are best described as energising and stimulating. Boys love to compete and when they do they are completely focused, show excellent teamwork skills and thrive."

Christ Church boys have a strong history of achieving incredibly high results in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Thousands of students from more than 3000 schools and 35 countries enter the competition. In 2015, William Thomas, Marcus Handley, Kohsuke Sato,

Andrew Lawrence and Leo Li were placed in the top 0.3 per cent of participants and William Hu was in the top 0.025 per cent, winning one of 69 medals globally.

"William's mathematical mind is quite extraordinary and he is very generous with his time, assisting his peers when needed and co-operating in very interesting class discussions," said Daniel La Galia, Assistant Head of Mathematics.



A right of passage

Each year, the Year 10 boys take part in Venture, an 11-day journey through the bushland and coastal settings of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The boys trek along bushland and coastal tracks, canoe down the Shannon River, raft around Broke Inlet and experience the picturesque forest, beaches, and waterways of Western Australia's south coast.

Venture is a rite of passage for the Year 10 boys and a culmination of their Outdoor Education program. Director of Activities, Mr Neil Saggars said the boys experience real challenges and use problem-solving skills to adapt to unexpected and adventurous situations. They are challenged to take calculated healthy risks and have a fabulous time doing so.

"The boys experience the ups and downs of camping in rugged and sometimes very tricky conditions. They also take

part in community service projects in the Walpole area, always with excellent results," he said.

... the boys experience real challenges and use problem-solving skills to adapt to unexpected and adventurous situations.





Rhodes Scholar - Andres Noe

The most recent Rhodes Scholarship was awarded to Christ Church old boy Andres Noe who graduated from Christ Church in 2008. Andres will study at Oxford University, England. In his words:

My Argentine migrant parents came here for a better environment to raise children. Our household was liberal - we wore dress-ups to the shops, lived in different parts of the world and had a loving community wherever we went. I came to Christ Church in Year 5 and looked up to my older brother Marco. School had a great impact on me. My best memories are of Army Cadets, especially the camps and parades, and I had wonderful teachers who took an interest in me, providing a sense of self through balance.

After school I was fortunate to be able to study medicine and developed a passion for rural medicine. I've just started an internship at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Being offered a Rhodes Scholarship and the opportunity to study at Oxford University is a tremendous and humbling honour that confers a great deal of responsibility. Public service is, to me, of the highest esteem.

Global health, public health, paediatrics and child health are areas I am passionate about. I get my drive from

the people around me who make me who I am. I see myself becoming an advocate for children through medicine, research and public policy.

Winston Churchill said, 'Success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.' I've approached things pragmatically, with conscious management of my expectations, accepting outcomes in light of circumstances and relishing obstacles/failures.

My advice for Christ Church boys is to get involved in everything the School has to offer. Find good mentors and ask them for help. Be patient and persistent - expect and relish setbacks; they make

successes all the more sweet. Sometimes experience is often the only teacher you need! As Randy Pausch said, 'Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted.' Be positive. A smile and a sense of humour will get you further than you think.

Finally, seek balance early in life to seek your sense of self.



My advice for Christ Church boys is to get involved in everything the School has to offer. Find good mentors and ask them for help.

Philosophical teaching

The Philosophy curriculum at Christ Church teaches boys how to analyse, evaluate and advance arguments in response to life's enduring questions. These can include questions, such as does God exist? (Philosophy of Religion), how do we know? (Epistemology) and how does science add to knowledge? (Philosophy of Science).

The course objective is to encourage rational and reflective consideration of these questions and others like them. Boys are taught how to think, not what to think.

Each year, students proudly represented Christ Church at the annual Philosophothon competition. The competition involves students from more than 18 Western Australian schools, sitting in groups known as 'communities of inquiry,' discussing four separate philosophical topics. Recent topics include:

1. Is torture *ever* permissible?
2. Do animals have minds?
3. Under what conditions is it justifiable to disobey the law?
4. Given that roughly 50 per cent of the population is female, should our political institutions be required to have 50 per cent female representation?

Judges assess individual contributions and students are encouraged to give logical responses to the topics, building toward an improved and shared understanding.



Head of Philosophy Mr Dominic Hodnett said the event brought together students, teachers and university lecturers from across the state.

"It is a fabulous atmosphere where everyone present shares a passion for philosophy and while prizes are awarded, everyone significantly benefits from the experience," he said.

Screening for excellence



The idea of using a projector in the classroom is certainly not a new concept. However, seeing a projector in the School Gym has had many students look twice. It is well documented that boys learn by visual stimuli and in Health and Physical Education, it is even more apparent.

Research shows that when boys first learn a new skill, they progress through three stages of learning:

1. The cognitive phase characterised by learning and familiarisation of the basic motor patterns
2. The associative phase, which is essentially the practice stage
3. The autonomous phase, the last and most difficult stage, culminating in the skill being performed automatically with very few errors

"Whether it is Kim Malajczuk teaching basic fundamental movement skills to the Year 1 boys or Tom Jerram preparing Year 12 boys for their Physical Education WACE practical, allowing the boys to watch themselves perform a skill has tremendous benefits to the outcome of learning, particularly during the associative stage," said Luke Farmer Head of Health and Physical Education.

With technology improving, the School continually brings new ideas to the classroom. iPad applications like BAM video delay, Ubersense and SloPro allow teachers to film the boys performing a skill, before viewing the footage for analysis of its execution.

"Seeing myself on the screen gives me a different perspective to what I am actually doing," said a student in Mr Jerram's class. The technology then allows the teacher to slow down their student's action and talk through the finer details for further improvement.



Academic excellence

The Class of 2015 continued the School's record of academic excellence. Three Christ Church students received general exhibitions and one achieved a course exhibition. The cohort achieved an impressive median Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of 89.55.

Principal Alan Jones congratulated all boys in the Class of 2015 on their performance. "As a high-performing academic yet inclusive school we accept boys of all abilities. It is wonderful to see our graduating class succeed academically and to see boys individually and collectively striving towards their unlimited potential. As a school that delivers boys' schooling well, I would like to acknowledge our teaching and support staff for their hard work and commitment in achieving the best outcomes for our boys."

The year group graduated with 175 WA Certificate of Education (WACE) externally assessed students and 11 general pathway students.

Certificates of Distinction were awarded to the following boys who were placed in the top 0.5 per cent of the state within a given course:

Angus Barber (Biological Sciences)
 Jack Hawkesford (Chemistry, Economics)
 Daniel Pelkowitz (Chemistry, Economics)
 Samuel Thompson (Chemistry)
 Jason Chu (Computer Science)
 Hector Morlet (Computer Science)
 Gareth Shanthikumar (Drama)
 Michael Lukin (Literature)
 Joseph Brough (Mathematics)
 Alexander Sherrington (Philosophy and Ethics)

Jack Leaversuch (Physical Education studies)
 Julian Ming (Physics)
 Terry Pham (Physics)

Certificates of Commendation were awarded to the following boys in recognition of achieving 10 or more A grades in Year 11 and 12: Angus Barber, Joseph Brough, Jack Hawkesford, Jared Hee, Hunter Jackson, Chaithanya Jeganathan, Christian Keller, Julian Ming, Nicholas O'Callaghan, Daniel Pelkowitz, Albert Qiu, Ganathipan Shanmugakumar, Samuel Thompson and Stefano Tudor.

The general pathway students achieved a variety of qualifications, including our first graduates in the Certificate IV in Fitness completed at Christ Church. All general pathway students have moved on to further study, employment and/or apprenticeships and we celebrate their success.

Of the 175 boys who sat for the ATAR:

- 18 boys (10 per cent of ATAR candidates) achieved an ATAR of 99 or higher
- 26 boys (15 per cent of ATAR candidates) achieved an ATAR of 98 or higher
- 53 boys (30 per cent of ATAR candidates) achieved an ATAR of 95 or higher
- 85 boys (49 per cent of ATAR candidates) achieved an ATAR of 90 or higher
- Jack Hawkesford, Stefano Tudor and Samuel Thompson achieved 99.90
- Jack Hawkesford, Julian Ming and Daniel Pelkowitz were awarded general exhibitions
- Jason Chu achieved a course exhibition (computer science)
- 13 Christ Church graduates received Certificates of Distinction and 14 graduates received Certificates of Commendation
- The median ATAR for the year group was 89.55 (state median 79.10)

Self directed learning

The implementation of LibGuides is a remarkable innovation for the Senior School Library at Christ Church.

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A digital resource supporting student enquiry tasks and encouraging self-directed learning, LibGuides are portals directly linking boys to library resources most relevant to their area of study.

Popular guides include those for Year 9 history students researching World War I and a television drama guide for Year 11 ATAR English, providing students with multimodal resources on different TV genres.

The Senior School Library is enthusiastically utilised by the boys and provides numerous experiences to enhance student learning and encourage collaboration and creativity.

The *Minecraft* National Book Week digital celebration is always highly anticipated, given the sweeping popularity of *Minecraft*. Organised and co-ordinated by Luke Milton, the term-long activity sees boys from Year 7 to 11 collaborate in small teams to transform a flat landscape into a digital world.

So great is its success that the Year 11 accounting classes have created a simulation activity, putting their business ethics knowledge to the test by surviving and prospering in a digital *Minecraft* environment.

Other celebrated events include the NaNoWriMo story writing competition and the 'build your own guitar' activity.

At the core of the Senior School Library is the support of students' learning and academic programs. Library staff work closely with teachers from all departments to aid the resourcing of programs.



The Senior School Library is enthusiastically utilised by the boys and provides numerous experiences to enhance student learning and encourage collaboration and creativity.



Boys mentoring boys

The strong culture of support and mentoring meant a popular year for Study Lab, Christ Church's unique after-school program for enriching the academic life of all boys in an accommodating environment.

A new initiative in 2015 saw old boy mentors assist in the Preparatory School's homework club, which runs three afternoons a week. Both the young and old boys enjoyed the friendly banter as homework was completed and questions were answered and explained.

Old boys who excel at Christ Church and continue their studies at university are employed as peer mentors to help oversee Study Lab. The boys enjoy seeing the older boys return in this role and find their work ethic and insight into university life invaluable. There is often discussion about what courses are available at university and how the old boys are finding life after Year 12.

Available to all boys in the Senior School for help with homework, assignments and assessment preparation, Study Lab is also the perfect opportunity to get files organised and sorted with help and supervision. Year 11 and 12 boys are given the opportunity to develop leadership and teaching skills as peer tutors under the guidance of teachers, while they assist the younger boys with their school work.

Study Lab runs in the Senior School Library every Monday to Thursday after school.





Centre for Excellence

The Centre for Excellence is the network connecting the challenging lessons provided by our teachers, the meaningful learning experiences of our students, and the extraordinary talent developed in our most capable students. The teachers at Christ Church invest an incredible amount of energy to ensure that our brightest are challenged just as much as the rest of the boys in their cohort.

The most important offering for our brightest is the breadth of experiences they receive including their day-to-day lessons. Our unique extension classes cover core content at an advanced pace, while integrating accelerative content throughout the course.

In Mathematics extension, students learn the mathematics behind data encryption on the internet, decipher mathematical rules, and encrypt/decrypt their findings before sharing with their peers.

In English extension, students write and analyse their own piece of dystopian fiction consistent with the genre and with a purpose.

In Humanities extension, students develop disaster recovery plans for less economically developed countries, simultaneously managing budgetary issues, social issues and environmental issues.



Salusansa

The Enigma program is designed for students of all ages to explore their interests, collaborate on high-level open-ended projects, and interact with like-minded peers in different year levels. It is 'boys mentoring boys' at its best.

When ready, students complete a first-year university course. In 2015, a Year 9 boy achieved a High Distinction with a result of 95, one of the top among hundreds of university-age participants in the course.

The Enigma Languages Group research linguistics and the basics of language, including grammar, semantics and vocabulary. Their research has recently led to an ambitious project concept - to invent a language they call Salusansa.

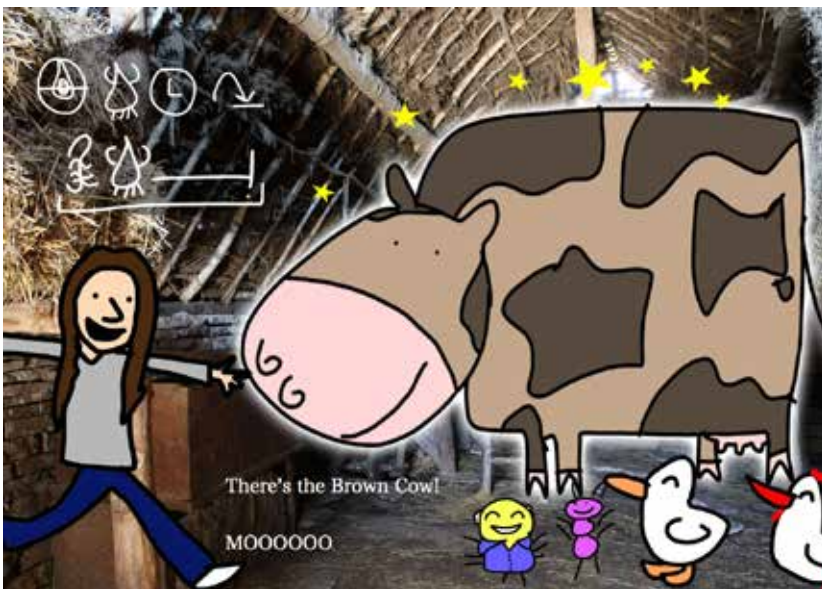
Salusansa was designed to be easy to learn, authentic, efficient and culturally neutral. Centred on water, the basic symbols for the words represent symbols for life.

The language comes complete with a 25-page dictionary and the beautifully-illustrated story *Where is the Cow?*

The team of boys also used the language to translate a collection of popular children's literature including, *Where is the Green Sheep?*



In 2015, a Year 9 boy achieved a High Distinction with a result of 95, one of the top among hundreds of university-age participants in the course.



Global citizenship



A range of international and interstate tour opportunities are available for boys at Christ Church. Tours include sporting, history, music, drama, art, language and Service in Action (SIA) expeditions and always inspire the boys for their future endeavours.

Avid fishermen enjoy the Montebello Islands, snowboarding and ski enthusiasts venture to the snowfields in New Zealand and keen batsmen enjoy the fascinating and challenging cricket tour to Sri Lanka.

The School's Beyond Queenslea Drive program provides Year 10 boys with the unique opportunity to be immersed in school environments around the world. As well as gaining friends overseas, the boys gain a personal sense of growth and improved international awareness. Boys have the opportunity to travel to the UK, South Africa, New Zealand, USA, Canada, France, Japan, China, India and Czech Republic.



"My experience was incredible. Highlights of the trip were visiting Washington DC, exploring different perspectives of the world, attending American History and Literature classes and getting VIP tickets to two concerts." Harry Vijayasekaran (Year 10)

Art in the Big Apple

At Christ Church, we believe that creative capacity is vital for tackling the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

The students' creative knowledge is expanded through thinking about, making and responding to art.

Our dynamic programs are designed to encourage risk-taking, experimentation and new approaches when tackling diverse critical problem-solving, essential ingredients for creativity. The School models the creative process to allow students to explore media ranging from traditional forms to new and emerging multimedia technologies. We challenge our students to discover how traditional works of art have inspired and informed contemporary artists and their practice.

Through art-making, students create fresh meaning and become inspired to see and think about art and the world in new ways. Studying art enables boys to draw from a wide range of knowledge and skills to develop their creativity, imagination and personal initiative. This creative environment is a catalyst that allows them to express their own unique view of the world while developing their creative spirit.

The Art curriculum at Christ Church encompasses modules during school time, unstructured time in the art studio during after-school sessions, extension activities under the guidance of

a teacher and experiences with a variety of Artists in Residence. There is also the option of joining the art tour, taking boys to the art capitals of the 20th century – London, Paris and New York.

While on tour, boys are inspired by global artists, their work and the workshops they present. They have the opportunity to spray large-scale graffiti murals in the lower east side of New York, develop their drawing skills in intimate yet awe-inspiring studios, and build models of celebrated buildings at the architecture foundation in Manhattan.

"New York City is the perfect backdrop for contemporary cutting edge art

exhibitions and workshops," said Pam Yordanoff, Head of Art.

"During a recent tour to New York, the boys were so engaged in the photography workshop presented by Russian Australian photographer Alina Gozin'a, they were asked to participate in portrait shots for the pages of her new photography project *Confessions from New York*," she said.

"The art tour is a trip full of adventures and special memories that sustain the boys' art practice well into the future," said Jean-Marc Rivalland, Senior School Art Teacher.





Army Cadets

Now in its 80th year of continuous operation and boasting over 90 cadets, the Army Cadet program at Christ Church is a cornerstone of the School, enriching the education experience for boys who pass through its ranks by providing unique opportunities available only to those in cadets or the wider Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Army Cadets is one of three cadet service options open to boys at the beginning of Year 10. It is integrated into the School timetable, with parades held on Fridays, and three weekend-long field exercises. At the end of the year the boys have the option of continuing into junior leadership roles in Year 11 and 12.

Christ Church Army Cadets stand out in the community; they are well presented, communicate with confidence and are effective team members and leaders. They develop many skills beyond service knowledge including practical skills in navigation, first aid, problem-solving, weapons handling, radio telecommunications, field craft and survival. These skills are put into practice on camps held at military training areas in and around Perth. They are often seen supporting the community, from participation in Anzac Day to fundraising for Legacy.

Future leaders are developed in the cadet unit, and it is no coincidence that a disproportionate number of student leaders, Prefects and Captains of School are also Army Cadets. Old boys regularly recount their experiences and friendships in Army Cadets as the best memories of their time at Christ Church.



Christ Church Army Cadets stand out in the community; they are well presented, communicate with confidence and are effective team members and leaders.

Experiences of a lifetime



Koorungal, Leeuwin II and Venture

The Outdoor Education program has been specifically designed to develop the boys' character and skills. The program takes the boys on a journey from the School's Outdoor Education campus at Koorungal near Dwellingup, to Shark Bay aboard the *Leeuwin II*, and concludes in an 11-day Venture expedition through the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The boys begin their journey in Year 5 at Koorungal. To ensure the boys are prepared and get the most out of the experience, the camp is based around the Earthkeepers project that begins in the classroom. Earthkeepers engages 'heads, hearts and hands' as the boys develop an understanding of the natural world.

This Koorungal experience continues in Year 6 and 7 as the boys spend time exploring the terrain. Designed to build a strong awareness of self and living with others,

activities include bushwalking, environmental awareness, orienteering, canoeing and abseiling. The boys are also responsible for cooking their evening meals.

The Year 8 adventure aboard the *Leeuwin II* has the boys sailing around the World Heritage Site of Shark Bay. The boys climb the rigging, set the sails, take the helm to steer the course, venture up the 33-metre main sail and scrub the decks. The aim of this experience is to expand the boys' capabilities and develop team and leadership skills.

"The boys are challenged to show initiative, responsibility and look out for each other," said Mark Morrissy, Director of Planning and Co-Curricular.

"Teamwork and communication are key skills when running a tall ship like the *Leeuwin II*, and while the boys are challenged to work efficiently and effectively together, there are plenty of opportunities for leaders to shine."

In Year 9, the boys return to Koorungal for an 11-day experience, taking on challenges to build their skills in readiness for the Year 10 Venture. Their activities include expedition bushwalking and navigation, canoeing, a ropes course, solo adventure, sustainable living practices and conservation activities.

Finally, the boys take part in Venture, a camp in its 26th year and a rite of passage for Year 10 boys. It is an 11-day journey through the bushland and coastal setting of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park and a culmination of the Outdoor Education program.

"I felt it was my destiny to climb to the top of the main sail and conquer my fear of heights. I succeeded and the experience was amazing." William Thomas

"I really enjoyed venture and having completed the camp I now understand why it is so much a part of the Christ Church experience." Declan Davis



Playing sport improves academic results

Anecdotal evidence suggests that kids who are active and play sport, have stronger organisational skills and a better work/life balance.

Christ Church was recently approached by the University of Western Australia to take part in an international study to look at the positive relationship between physical activity and higher academic results.

A questionnaire was administered to school students in three countries - Japan, Finland and Australia. The findings suggest that students who belong to a sport club and/or participated in significantly more regular physical activity had:

1. Higher motivation to study with better academic results and outcomes
2. Motivation to play sport
3. Perseverance in overcoming obstacles
4. Better communication and relationship building skills
5. Strong personal qualities relating to sporting situations (patience, cooperation, concentration, courtesy, stress management, problem-solving, appreciation and self efficacy)

Within the Health and Physical Education learning area, Christ Church boys are provided with strategies for maintaining their health and physical activity levels. They develop many values that hold them in good stead for later life, including leadership, teamwork, personal challenge, acceptance of decisions and opinions of others and initiative.

Boys are provided with the opportunity to experience new activities and regardless of their ability, they are continually challenged to do their best.



In addition to the Health and Physical Education program, sport is a core part of the School program where boys compete with each other and for each other.

The broad range of sports on offer include:

Summer

Basketball, cricket, rowing, sailing, swimming, tennis, volleyball, water polo and golf

Winter

Badminton, cross country, football, hockey, rugby, sailing, soccer and strength and conditioning

Boys are required to participate in regular training and organised weekly fixtures in the summer and winter sport of their choice. They train with highly regarded coaches including former olympians, national and international athletes.

The School's outstanding sporting facilities include a gymnasium complex, heated 50m pool and extensive playing fields. International and national tours are also offered for many sports.



Boarding at Christ Church

There is no question that mentoring benefits boys in tangible and measurable ways. All new boarders at Christ Church are supported in finding their way by a seasoned boarder who is often charged with helping to train, advise and share practical experience with the new boy in the residential community.

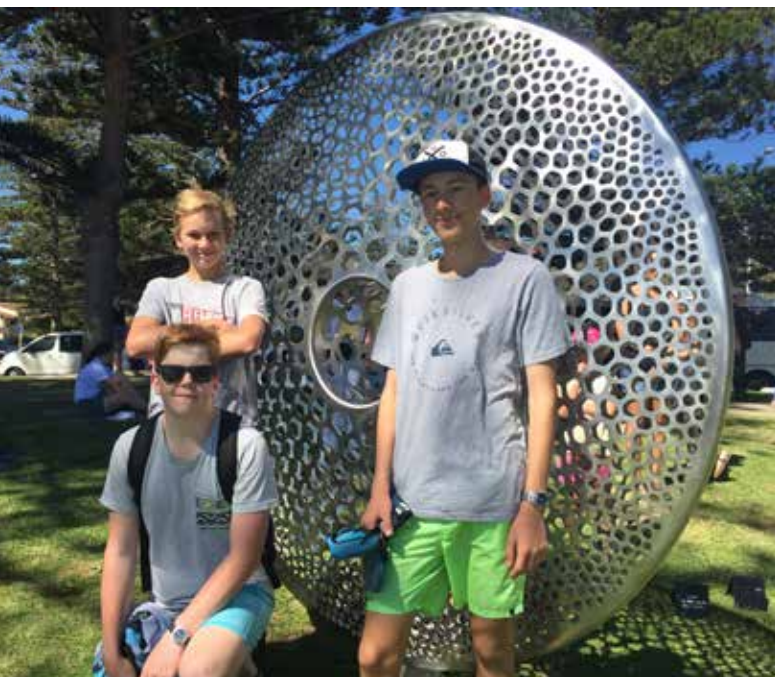
The Year 11 Knutsford mentor program in the Walters Residential Community provides examples of how successful this is on a regular basis. At the end of Year 10 boys can apply to move to Knutsford to guide and support our newest and youngest boarders, usually for a semester. Moving into Knutsford allows the Year 11 boys to be involved in formal and informal aspects of Knutsford life.



There is no question that mentoring benefits boys in tangible and measurable ways.

Director of the Residential Community Brad Downing said he was delighted with how well the program has been received by both the older and younger boys, adding that the Year 11 boys do a wonderful job.

"On a very hot Saturday down at the Christ Church pool, Year 11 mentors Jacob Wilding and Curtis Bett devoted their time to teaching a Year 8 boy how to dive," he said. "It was wonderful to watch. Seeing this kind of initiative and mentoring from the older boys is something that makes me proud."





Phenomenal musicians

School's winning program.



Inclusivity and excellence are the hallmarks of the Christ Church Music Department, to which every student is welcome and encouraged to join. More than a third of Christ Church students receive music tuition with a large number of boys passionate about performing in the various instrumental and vocal ensembles on offer.

Catering for classical, jazz and rock musicians, there is an active calendar of performance opportunities at a variety of venues, as well as school assemblies and major concerts presented in conjunction with Methodist Ladies' College and St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls.

The Scholars' Recital features solo items from each of the music scholarship students, and St George's Cathedral's *Concerts at One* allows soloists the opportunity to shine with an audience of city workers, shoppers, tourists, families and friends.



Jazz musicians have their night in the lights at Perth's premier jazz venue, the Ellington Jazz Club. The event, in its seventh year, features four brackets of jazz standards and the contemporary repertoire from Jazz Bands I and II, the Jazz Combo and the Saxophone Quartet.

The Rock Workshop program enjoys an afternoon of rock'n'roll at the School, where more than 12 bands perform to an audience of family and friends. They also have the fantastic opportunity to perform at Mojo's, one of Perth's premier live music venues.



"The boys love playing in a public venue on a professional stage with professional production. It really inspires them as musicians," said Director of Music, Kevin Gillam.

Concerto Night is particularly special for the Year 12 musicians who perform with a full symphony orchestra or backing ensemble of choice.

"The professionalism and dedication of the soloists shines incredibly brightly on Concerto Night. The boys always perform superbly, while the backing orchestras and bands provide excellent support," said Mr Gillam.

A season of fun in the theatre

The Midnite Youth Theatre Company is the performing arts wing of Christ Church Grammar School.



This season, the company will work with some of Western Australia's freshest designers from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Artistic director Gregory Jones said the season was going to be great fun, with the inclusion of work from guest director Trina Di Crescenzo.

"Midnite is committed to supporting local young artists and showcasing their talents to the wider community," he said.



Midnite is committed to supporting local young artists and showcasing their talents to the wider community.

The season opens at the Fringe World Festival in February with the musical *Viva La Restoration*. Written by Christ Church old boy Cal Silberstein, Jackson Griggs and Thomas Owen, *Viva La Restoration* will tour Scotland, Wales and England with a cast of school-aged students in 2017.

The Rise and Fall of the Bargainmart King will feature an ensemble cast of 30 students. Written by award winning Australian playwright Kate Rice, the production builds on Midnite's commitment to stage Australian works.

Boys will have the opportunity to perform at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia when they bring to life the hilarious musical comedy, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. This musical romp, based on the plays of Plautus, features thrills, spills, great comic timing and a fantastic score.

To close the season, boys will perform *Monkey!* the hilarious story of Monkey and his friends Pigsy and Sandy. Made popular by the 1970s Japanese television series, this production promises to have the audience laughing out loud.

"Comedy is certainly the theme for 2016 and we look forward to a great year of outstanding performances."



Indigenous Student Program - sport, academia and the arts

Christ Church celebrates NAIDOC week with a multitude of activities, including the ever-popular Indigenous Art Exhibition.

In 2015, the exhibition was particularly pertinent as it coincided with the launch of the School's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), a formal statement of Christ Church's commitment to reconciliation.

At Christ Church, we are committed to building strong relationships between all boys from diverse cultural backgrounds. The RAP captures past and planned initiatives, all of which share the objective of inspiring and enabling our entire community to contribute to reconciliation.

Although the connection to our Indigenous community at Christ Church spans decades, the Indigenous Student Program (ISP) began formally in 2005. Now with 15 boys from WA, it continues to provide Indigenous students with excellent educational opportunities, which ultimately leads to positive outcomes for the boys, their communities and the Christ Church community.

Each year, Christ Church staff and selected Year 11 students are invited to attend Garnduwa's annual Indigenous youth leadership camps. The camps bring boys together from the East and West Kimberley regions. The goal is to develop leadership among the Indigenous boys and make them aware of the pathways available. The camps also provide Christ Church students with invaluable insights into life in the Kimberley and traditional Aboriginal culture and activities. These experiences and relationships are then used to help new Indigenous students adjust to life at school in Perth.

During the year, the Indigenous boys take part in a variety of focused events. They attend the Indigenous All Star versus West Coast Eagles game at Leederville oval, contribute to Future Footprints, complete in the PSA Indigenous Round wearing specially-designed jumpers, and celebrate NAIDOC week with



a number of festivities. ISP coordinator Chris Miles said he is extremely proud of what the Indigenous boys at Christ Church continue to achieve.

"Some have overcome great adversity to get to this stage in their life and the future is looking bright for these talented young men," he said. "With three new students entering the program this year and the development of a cultural room, the Indigenous Program has a bright future."





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Centre for Ethics brings world's best to Christ Church

Mental health, belief, adversity, science and climate change are all topics addressed by a wide range of local and international speakers and experts brought to Christ Church each year by the Centre for Ethics.

Headed by Canon Frank Sheehan, the centre engages speakers such as Perth-based Rabia Siddique: feminist, Muslim, lawyer, former hostage in Iraq, social justice crusader and terrorism prosecutor. The speakers draw large numbers of the local community while offering the boys a global perspective in a world facing serious challenges.

This year's informative, inspirational and challenging guests will be announced in the Centre for Ethics newsletter, released at the beginning of each term. A highlight will be a visit from Kim Beazley, the former Labor leader and ambassador to the US who has recently taken up his new role of National President of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

A number of excellent speakers were brought to Christ Church by Father Frank in 2015 to speak to the boys and the wider school community. Visitors spoke on White Ribbon Day, World Book Day and International Women's Day, encouraging active awareness of ethics issues among the boys.

Mental health was extensively discussed with talks from an impressive range of experts, including world-leading neurobiologist Professor Cyndi Shannon Weickert who spoke about schizophrenia, and former Australian of the Year Professor Patrick McGorry on hope and help for young people experiencing early stages of mental illness.





Greg Mitchell visited classrooms to talk about multiple intelligences and positive intelligence, and there was discussion about finding strength through adversity with former West Coast Eagle Jaymie Graham.

Not retreating from sensitive topics, the centre hosted Father Frank Brennan who addressed a large gathering to discuss 'Australia's National Interest and the Decent Treatment of Asylum Seekers'.

Luke Ryan spoke to Year 10 students on the subject of his book, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Chemo*, also a sell-out show at the Melbourne Comedy Festival. Luke told the boys about the ordeals of chemotherapy at age 11 and then 22.

Science and belief were also up for discussion with topics such as global warming, belief and atheism, fusion as a sustainable force and mindful travel. The centre is well-known for presenting outstanding speakers including Abbey Marden from World Vision, the ABC's Kerry O'Brien, and authors Kate Grenville and Abbot Bernard Rooney.

Now in its 20th year, the Centre for Ethics continues to engage boys in meaningful reflection and conversation on ethics and spirituality, reinforcing two of the School's core values - social responsibility and care towards others.



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Service before self

Based on the Christian call to serve others, the Service in Action (SIA) program inspires boys to learn about themselves and the world through serving those less fortunate - a process of service learning.

Christ Church boys visit many areas of the world with SIA, with journeys to Fiji, Cambodia and Timor Leste (East Timor), all planned for 2016.

The SIA Indigenous immersion focuses on remote parts of Northern Australia, with Year 11 boys visiting schools in communities such as Looma, Yackanarra and Marble Bar. Working in the classroom as teacher's aides, they develop relationships and act as mentors, modelling the benefits of education.

Immersion in a different culture teaches the boys a great deal about themselves and the world around them. James Borshoff, 2016 Service Prefect reflected on the importance of these relationships and cultural learning.

"Besides sharing laughs and moments of joy, the boys learn so much about themselves and others from the trips," he said.

"It opens my eyes to the fact that I cannot sit back and watch the vicious cycle of meaninglessness in remote communities, given the consequences and impacts on individuals.

"Such an entrenched issue within our society needs people to make a difference, and while one week can have a lasting impact, it is still not enough."

Like James, so many of the boys involved with the SIA program report it as a transformational experience, something that Christ Church deeply values as part of a well-rounded education.



Giving to transform lives

While philanthropy helped establish the School (and now sustains it and the many scholarship students) the teaching of philanthropy to the boys has become a priority in more recent years.

Christ Church boys are increasingly involved in practical ways of learning the value of their giving of time, talent and treasure to those in the community who benefit from support. In Year 5, persuasive writing is being taught by having boys present their most convincing case for supporting a charity they feel strongly about.

In Year 10, the boys work in groups to present a case for why their chosen charity is worthy of a \$5000 donation. As they

Philanthropy has been a hallmark of Christ Church Grammar School since its foundation.

research their charity they learn about how they operate, gain funding and the benefits the charity brings to those in need. These are just some of the practical ways our boys are gaining a greater understanding of and insight into philanthropy and how they can be empowered to make a difference at any age.

Our Annual Giving program invites everyone in the Christ Church community to give towards scholarships for deserving young boys as well as priority building projects around our campuses.

In recent times we have been very fortunate to benefit from bequests left to the School by those who have had their own Christ Church experiences. These legacies have enabled Christ Church to develop great learning spaces as well as give the gift of a Christ Church education to boys of great potential whose financial circumstances would prevent them from coming to our school.



To recognise these generous benefactors who help to transform boys' lives, we will be relaunching the Mitre Society in the coming months. The Mitre Society honours and recognises those who during their lifetime offer commitment and generosity to Christ Church in the form of a gift in their will.

Christ Church boys are increasingly involved in practical ways of learning the value of their giving of time, talent and treasure to those in the community who benefit from support.



Partnering with parents

Christ Church Grammar School works closely with parents to engage a variety of experts into the Christ Church community. The Parents' Association and Parents' Auxiliary organise experiences ranging from the Artist in Residence programs, parent pedagogy talks, breakfasts, guest speakers and social functions.

Paul Dillon from Australia's Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Centre engages the Year 10 to 12 boys in serious discussions about the effects of drugs, alcohol and issues including those associated with school leavers' celebrations.

Australia's leading child and adolescent psychologist, Michael Carr-Gregg, provides boys with important life advice and discusses technology to aid wellbeing. He introduces boys to a range of digital devices and apps, which are helpful during their final years at school and emphasises the importance of sleep and how it is the essential ingredient for learning and wellbeing.

Jonathon Doyle, author of *Bridging the Gap*, inspires the boys to be extraordinary men. Jonathon speaks candidly to Year 10 to 12 boys and their parents about the nature of one's identity, and specifies areas that men need to work on to ensure a transition to manhood.

Dr Michael Kimmel, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University and best-selling author of *Guyland: the Perilous World Where Boys Become Men*, urges the Year 10 to 12 boys to have conversations about what makes a good man, and how being a good man differs from being masculine. Michael also spends an evening with mothers and fathers discussing 'adult-escence' and qualities of 'good' men.

These speakers, among others, provide great insight and inspiration for the boys and their families through a series of talks and workshops. These experiences are made possible thanks to the dedication of the parents involved in the Parents' Association and Auxiliary.



New OBA President

In late October the Old Boys' Association (OBA) elected David Payne (1978) as its new President. David's three sons have all graduated from Christ Church, Alex (2008), Jono (2009) and Ben (2013). David has spent several years on the Don Fraser Committee as treasurer and the Parents' Association as a committeeman and later President.

After 14 years in the mining industry in a variety of roles, David joined the WA Electoral Commission and ran four state election events. He now manages the enrolment and education branch of the commission.

"With 2017 being the OBA's centenary year, the committee's focus is on ensuring this milestone in our history is properly marked and celebrated, and that the groundwork is set for the next 100 years. On top of this, we will continue to provide a range of activities to support the School and its students, as well as encouraging social interaction between our members."

Old boys share their wisdom

Each year, the OBA works with the School to give Year 12 boys the opportunity to discuss their career aspirations with successful old boys.

Known as the careers breakfasts, the events allow boys to speak with professionals from the fields of commerce, law, business and IT; engineering, architecture and hospitality; and medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy and vet science.

Old boys mingle with students offering advice on preparing for exams, the year ahead, study pathways and life beyond Christ Church.



2016 Captain of School



Christ Church is not only a school for boys, it is a brotherhood of young men who support, encourage and foster each other.

Your first memories of Christ Church?

One of my first memories of Christ Church was sitting in the Chapel on my orientation day and listening to the then Captain of School, Simon Swan, talking about all the things Christ Church had offered him. From that day onwards, I knew I wanted to give it all a go.

Your most memorable moment at Christ Church?

There has been nothing more exhilarating than coming down the course in the First VIII race at the Head of the River. Even though we didn't place where we hoped, to hear a crowd cheering and to see glimpses of Christ Church boys supporting us out of the corner of our eyes, made sitting in that boat with the Christ Church crest on my zoot suit, one of the proudest and most memorable moments ever.

A challenging experience you have had?

Christ Church Cadets take part in an Australian Army Cadets camp known as Tier 3. It is an annual nine-day camp that involves trekking through the bush in the rain, conducting lookouts in the early hours of the morning, and navigating in the unforgiving yet uniquely beautiful Australian bush. It was a great challenge, but you reap what you sow, and the life lessons and the strong bonds created at these camps are unbreakable.

Your favourite teacher and why?

Mr Saunders, the Director of Rowing, has been one of my greatest life mentors. He has the ability to encourage and push boys beyond their expectations, which allows them to develop to their full potential while engaging them in an extremely tight and enjoyable sport. He teaches some of the finest life skills, including commitment, self-discipline and team loyalty while we are in the boat during those early morning sessions on the Swan River. He is a caring, loyal and proud teacher who never gives up on anyone he sees is trying their best.

Describe the qualities of leadership you admire

I think good leaders are those that have a clear sense of balance - strong and kind, a good listener and an inspirational talker, friendly and respected.

What are you proud of as a CCGS boy?

I'm proud to be a boy in gold and blue. Not only because Christ Church is an incredible school with fantastic facilities, but because of the boys that fill the classrooms and the cultures, values and personalities that they bring. Christ Church is not only a school for boys, it is a brotherhood of young men who support, encourage and foster each other.

What are you looking forward to in 2016?

In 2016, I'm looking forward to getting to know other Christ Church boys. Since arriving in Year 9, totally new to the country, I made it my mission to get to know and introduce myself to someone new every day. Over 534 days on, I can honestly say I have met some of the most inspiring and supportive boys. 2016 is a new year for everyone, and I can't wait to get more involved in different aspects of the School.

Shortlisted for the 2016 Rhodes Scholarship - Ben McAllister

Ben graduated in 2010 and is currently pursuing a Masters in Physics. He was shortlisted for the 2016 Rhodes Scholarship and has been offered a place at Oxford University for a PhD. In Ben's words:

The atmosphere of learning at Christ Church is pretty amazing - it made me want to achieve my best. One of the best things about Christ Church is the access to extra-curricular activities, the sports, the after-school programs, the cultural side of things; there is no shortage of things to do if you go looking. All of my teachers throughout school were pretty great. Dr Holly Rose, Margaret Brophy and Jon Turner are just three of several great teachers I had.

I was heavily involved in Drama at school and it's still one of my major passions. Old boy Ben Thomas and I co-founded local theatre company, Sandpaperplane, and I'll be performing in *Viva La Restoration*, Midnite Youth Theatre Company's show at the Fringe Festival.

Lifelong friendships are forged at Christ Church. Several of my best friends are old boys. Maintaining that connection has always been incredibly valuable and rewarding.

What I love is learning. Whenever I meet someone who is studying, or knows a lot about something that I know nothing about, I love to pick their brains and try and glean as much as I can, and learn about what makes them passionate about it.

My advice for boys is to try things. Find the thing you can see yourself getting up for every day. It is far more important to find and do something you are passionate about than what you think would be 'safe'. Don't freak out if you don't know what that thing is right now, but start thinking about it.

Make the most of Christ Church. Seriously, you will forge some amazing and lasting friendships there.



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Christ Church Grammar School

PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Queenslea Drive, Claremont WA 6010 | PO Box 399, Claremont WA 6910
T: (08) 9442 1555 | **F:** (08) 9442 1690 | **E:** info@ccgs.wa.edu.au | **W:** www.ccgs.wa.edu.au

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