



# Christ Church Grammar School

## Report to Synod, July 2014

The past year has been a very successful one for the School. Among many highlights, we are particularly pleased to report:

- continued academic excellence demonstrated by a high performing Year 12 that again topped the state in General Excellence awards,
- a continually enriched co-curricular programme, providing excellent outdoor education, music, performing arts, international perspectives and activities,
- positive progress in the development plans for the planned Brockway playing fields,
- another successful year of sporting contributions in competition and the appointment of renowned cricketer Mickey Arthur as Director of Cricket
- outstanding musical and dramatic productions, most notably the award-winning production of *Les Miserables (School Edition)*.

This report is a limited opportunity to capture the essence of our progress in the last year, therefore I would also encourage readers to visit the news section of the School's website [www.ccgswa.edu.au/news](http://www.ccgswa.edu.au/news) to gain a wider appreciation of the broad variety of activities and achievements of our students and staff.

## Strategic focus

Following my appointment as Chair of Council in January 2014, the School has engaged external consultants, with whom it has worked before, to review its current 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan and to assist in preparation for the next phase of planning. As this process unfolds over the next 12 months, we will update Synod.

In the meantime, the School remains committed to its strategic themes:

- Motivating boys to achieve at their best.
- Enhancing our quality staff in pursuit of the School's Mission.
- Guiding boys to the further development of an international perspective.
- Understanding, enabling and celebrating diversity in the Christ Church context.
- Planning for a secure, flexible financial future.

Christ Church Grammar School continues to focus on ensuring that it will have the capacity to fund the capital expenditure required to deliver its strategic objectives. This will be achieved through disciplined financial management of the operations of the School and where appropriate, philanthropic contributions. To that end our Director of Philanthropy Ms Carolyn Turner, who was appointed to the Executive last year, has made excellent progress.

The Centre for Pedagogy has continued to advance professional development and focus on teaching methodology to engage and motivate boys to achieve their best. With the expansion of tablet devices (iPads) to all students and staff now completed, there has been a significant focus on leveraging this resource.

International perspectives continue to be promoted through engaging curriculum development, as well as an outstanding array of international exchanges and tours available to students.

## Enrolments

Current total enrolments stand at 1604, consisting of boys from Pre-Primary through to Year 12. There are 502 boys in the LW Parry Preparatory School and 1102 students in the Senior School. The number of boarders is 108. Demand for places continues to be very strong for each year of intake.

## Outstanding academic results

The 2013 Year 12 academic results continued the School's record of excellence. Christ Church students received seven General Exhibitions – the highest number in the State – as well as three Course Exhibitions, three perfect scores of 99.95 and an impressive Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) median of 90.1.

The year group graduated with 177 WA Certificate of Education (WACE) externally-assessed students and 11 WACE Wholly School Assessed (WSA) students.

Of the 177 boys who sat for the ATAR:

- 16 (9 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 99 or more, placing them in the top one per cent of students across the country.
- 32 (18 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 98 or higher, placing them in the top two per cent.
- 63 (36 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 95 or higher, placing them in the top five per cent.
- 92 (52 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 90 or higher, placing them in the top 10 per cent.
- Alexander Chua, Liam Kearney and Simon Swan achieved top scores of 99.95.
- General Exhibitions were awarded to Liam Kearney (2013 School Dux), Alexander Chua, Matthew Eton, Simon Swan, Brian Hao, Robert Pennefather and Matt Freind.
- Course Exhibitions were awarded to Liam Kearney for Economics and Philosophy and Ethics, and to Alexander Chua for Mathematics.
- The median ATAR for the year group was 90.1.
- The School received 19 Certificates of Distinctions and 16 Certificates of Commendation.

Of the 11 boys who completed WSA subjects, six completed a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course and two completed an Aboriginal School Based Traineeship with Leighton.

The Preparatory School continues to advance innovative educational approaches. Mandarin has been introduced from Pre-Primary to Year 6, a new programme to enrich writing called Big Write has been introduced and the new Oracy curriculum developed and introduced for Years 3 to 6.

## Co-curricular successes

In 2013 Christ Church was the top performing school in the PSA sporting competition. Of the 12 PSA summer and winter codes, the School won tennis and basketball; finished second in rowing, rugby, swimming and soccer; and was third in cricket, water polo, badminton and cross country. The Christ Church also finished second in PSA surfing and won its second consecutive WA School Teams Racing Championship (sailing). The Preparatory School also performed well in the JPSSA competition, winning the swimming and coming second in athletics. The talented sporting staff has been complemented by the appointment of cricketer Mickey Arthur to the position of Direct of Cricket.

Christ Church boys continue to excel in the diverse range of activities and competitions such as music ensembles and choirs, debating, drama performances through the Midnite Youth Theatre Company (MYTC) productions, chess, Duke of Edinburgh, cadets, mock trials and robotics. The Preparatory School introduced a creative range of co-curricular after-school clubs, which have been hugely popular. Academic staff members also continue to provide an exceptional range of tour opportunities for students to develop their artistic and sporting knowledge and skills during the school holidays.

The major school production of the year, *Les Miserables (School Edition)* by the MYTC was a triumph. The cast of 100 students from Christ Church, St Hilda's, MLC, PLC and Iona were outstanding. The Independent Theatre Association of WA awarded the production as Best Youth Production of the year.

The outdoor education programme for students from Year 5 to 11 continues to be a key element of the School's programme to expand the boys' capabilities and sense of themselves. The fourth year of the Year 8 adventure aboard the *Leeuwin II*, sailing around Shark Bay, has secured the experience as a rite of passage for students.

## Personal and Spiritual Development (PSD)

The Personal and Spiritual Development programme for the School continues to enrich the education of students. The Preparatory School continues to develop its focus on socio-emotional education and has commenced implementation of protective behaviours curriculum. It has also introduced Vertical Tutor Groups for all boys from Years 3 to 6.

The Senior School has focussed on introducing element of positive education, expanded digital citizenship and broadened a leadership programme for Year 11 boys.

## Community outreach

Canon Frank Sheehan continues to attract an exceptional calibre and range of speakers who help to raise issues and contexts for constructive discussion through the School's Centre for Ethics. The School has been fortunate to have access to diverse speakers including Tom Percy, Akram Azimi and Tim Winton.

Canon Richard Pengelley is focused on developing the School's approach to service learning through the 'Service in Action' programme of serviced-based immersion tours. A Year 11 programme of Indigenous immersions has been introduced to enhance the service and leadership opportunities for the boys.

The School continues to encourage a range of community service and fundraising initiatives supporting a range of causes and initiatives, particularly Anglicare.

Our Indigenous Programme has continued to develop positively. The School currently has 16 Indigenous students, who are based in our boarding house and supported by scholarships. These boys have the advantage of a dedicated Indigenous Programme Co-ordinator to help them bridge the cultural gap and champion their culture in the school community. The School has finalised its draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and looks forward to confirmation in the near future.

## Council

The Council has had a stable period of membership, with no movements other than the retirement of David Fardon as Chairman. We give David our appreciation for his leadership of the Council for the previous six years and his continued participation as an active member of the Council.

## Appreciation

The Council extends its sincere thanks to the Headmaster, staff, students, school families and alumni for their contribution to another successful year.

**John Poynton AM**  
Chairman of Council