



# Christ Church Grammar School

## Report to Synod , July 2012

The highlights of the last year for Christ Church were the continued academic excellence demonstrated by a high performing Year 12, the progression of the School 's strategic directions and the establishment and embedding of a school-wide approach to the pedagogy of motivating boys.

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

## Strategic development

Following the milestone of the School's centenary, in 2010-2011 the School Council and Executive, with the input of the broader School community, reassessed our position and considered our next stage of development. The following 5 strategic themes emerged, for which the Executive is now working to advance:

- 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.

Significant progress has been made on each of these themes. To date the main focus has been on ground-breaking research on what motivates boys and Christ Church boys in particular, and working with our academic staff to develop a distinctive pedagogy focussed on motivating even more boys to achieve their best.

## Enrolments

The total enrolments stand at 1598, consisting of boys from Pre-primary through to Year 12. There are 492 boys in the LW Parry Preparatory School and 1106 students in the Senior School. The number of boarders is 109. Demand for places continues to be very strong for each year of intake.

## Outstanding academic results

The 2011 Year 12 academic results continued the School's record of excellence. A new School and State record was set for General Exhibitions, with 10 of the possible 42 General Exhibitions being won by Christ Church boys. We congratulated the General Exhibition recipients Harry Breidahl (who was also one of 15 WA students who achieved the top ATAR score of 99.95), Guy Coleman, Declan Davis, Patrick Davis, Hugh Edwards, Tim Geller, Fraser Wallace, Ruairidh Williamson, Brian Wong and Ellis Xanthis on this achievement.

Of the 170 boys who sat for the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR):

- 20 (11.8 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 99 or more, putting them in the top one per cent of students across the country.
- 31 (18.2 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 98 or higher, placing them in the top two per cent.
- 55 (32.4 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 95 or more, placing them in the top five per cent.

- 79 boys (46.5 per cent) obtained an ATAR of more than 90, placing them in the top 10 per cent.
- The average ATAR for the year group was 85.
- 15 were awarded Certificates of Distinction.
- 23 were awarded Certificates of Excellence.

Of the 11 boys who completed Wholly School Assessed subjects, six completed a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course, one is continuing VET and one finished a Workplace Learning course.

15 Certificates of Distinction, for the top 0.5 per cent of candidates in each course, were awarded to the following students: Harry Breidahl (Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics), Guy Coleman (Physics), Adarsh Das (Chemistry), Declan Davis (Literature), Patrick Davis (Economics), Hugh Edwards (Chemistry), Thomas Goodbourn (Ancient History), Bay Ransom (English), Fraser Wallace (Economics), Brian Wong (Mathematics), and Ellis Xanthis (Chemistry, Economics).

Certificates of Excellence for achieving at least nine A grades in Years 11 and 12 were also awarded to the following 23 students: Harry Breidahl, Guy Coleman, Adarsh Das, Brian Wong, Hugh Edwards, Fraser Wallace, Patrick Davis, Declan Davis, Ellis Xanthis, Thomas Drake-Brockman, Ruaridh Williamson, Christopher O'Keeffe, Luke Ren, Tim Geller, Andrew Gunn, Bay Ransom, Haydn Cruise, Jack Featherby, Alexander Horton, Thomas Jenkins, James Knox, Samuel McGurk and Matthew Smith.

## Personal and Spiritual Development

The Personal and Spiritual Development programme for the School continues to enrich the education of students. In the last year, a significant focus on socio-emotional education in the Preparatory School, using age-relevant programmes has resulted in a positive and preventative education approach which engages the boys.

## Staff development

The School continues to invest in staff development, especially for academic staff. In this period a significant focus has been the formation, training and tracking of the *Christ Church Pedagogy*, the School's united approach in teaching to engage and motivate more boys to achieve at their best. Another exciting partnership with the Yakanarra Community School in the West Kimberley has resulted in two of our staff contributing their professional expertise and time in that community.

## Co-curricular successes

Christ Church has had a very satisfying sporting performance in the PSA competition over the last year. The trophies for the JPSSA competition events for Swimming and Cross Country were retained. The Head of the River, Swimming, Water Polo, Sailing, Soccer, Surfing competitions resulted in victories savoured by the School community.

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 productions, chess Duke of Edinburgh, cadets, mock trials and robotics. Academic staff members also continue to provide extraordinary holiday tour opportunities for students to develop their the artistic and sporting knowledge and skills.

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 second year of the Year 8 adventure aboard the *Leeuwin II*, sailing around Shark Bay, has secured the experience as a memorable highlight for students.

## Community outreach

The Centre for Ethics engages boys in the community's conversation about ethics and spirituality and the way the two connect. The Centre's guest speakers, workshops and newsletters contribute to this journey.

Canon Frank Sheehan continues to attract an exceptional calibre and range of speakers who help to raise issues and contexts for constructive discussion.

The Pilgrimage of Hope has recently ended its tenure with the School, following the departure of Brother James to focus his life within his Benedictine community. Canon Richard Pengelley has recently commenced his role in the newly-formed position of Director of Service Learning and Leadership. In this capacity Richard will develop the School's approach to service learning to fill the much-appreciated place of the Pilgrimage of Hope.

The Indigenous Programme for the School has evolved over the last few years in a very pleasing way. The school currently has 23 indigenous students, almost all of whom are based in our boarding house and supported by scholarships. These boys have the advantage of a dedicated Indigenous Programme Coordinator to help them bridge the cultural gap and champion their culture in the School community. The NAIDOC Week celebrations of 2012 brought particular joy and pride to the School community. Our coordinator also helps to build community partnerships with indigenous groups particularly in the Kimberley region.

## Appreciation

We are fortunate to have a diverse and motivated team who each contribute in so many ways. The Council extends its sincere thanks to the Headmaster, staff, students, school families and alumni for their contribution to another successful year.

**David Fardon**

Chairman of Council