



Christ Church Grammar School

Report to Synod, July 2013

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 to gain a wider appreciation of the broad variety of activities and achievements of our students and staff.

Strategic focus

The School Council and Executive remain committed to the fulfilment of the School's strategic plan. 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 continues to be made on each of these themes. In the last year considerable focus on embedding the school pedagogy with staff, parents and students has enabled a deeper partnership with parents and students on the goal to motivate even more boys to achieve their best. Staff motivation has also been enhanced through the new workshop sessions within departments. International perspectives continue to be promoted through engaging curriculum development, as well as an outstanding array of international exchanges and tours available to students. A significant initiative in the planning for financial strength is the creation of a new role, the Director of Philanthropy, which has recently been recruited.

Enrolments

The total enrolments stand at 1639, consisting of boys from Pre-Primary through to Year 12. There are 505 boys in the LW Parry Preparatory School and 1134 students in the Senior School. The number of boarders is 110. Demand for places continues to be very strong for each year of intake.

Outstanding academic results

The 2012 Year 12 academic results continued the School's record of excellence. Four of the possible 40 General Exhibitions were accomplished by Christ Church boys: WeiLun Wang (4th) and Kieren Tan (7th), who also achieved the top ATAR scores of 99.95, along with Tobias Butler (35th) and Weiyuan Fan (36th). Harry Smallbone, who was awarded a Course Exhibition as the top student in WA in Computer Science.

Of the 178 boys who sat for the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR):

- 20 (11 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 99 or more, putting them in the top one per cent of students across the country.
- 29 (16 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 98 or higher, placing them in the top two per cent.
- 57 (32 per cent) obtained an ATAR of 95 or more, placing them in the top five per cent.

- 91 boys (51 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 90.4.
- 14 were awarded Certificates of Distinction.
- 19 were awarded Certificates of Commendation.

Of the 15 boys who completed Wholly School Assessed subjects, seven completed a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course, three completed an Aboriginal School Based Traineeship, one completed a traineeship one finished a Workplace Learning course.

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 Tennis, Basketball, Sailing and Surfing competitions also resulted in victories savoured by the Senior 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 an exceptional range of tour opportunities for students to develop their the artistic and sporting knowledge and skills during the school holidays.

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

Personal and Spiritual Development (PSD)

The Personal and Spiritual Development programme for the School continues to enrich the education of students. In the last year, continued focus in the Preparatory School on socio-emotional education has resulted in a positive and preventative education approach. The pastoral care teams of the Preparatory and Senior Schools are working together on an integrated PSD curriculum, assisted by Canon Richard Pengelley, our new Director of Service Learning and Leadership.

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.

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. Assisting local communities in Cambodia, Fiji, and the Kimberley are the present focus.

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

The Indigenous Programme for the School has evolved over the last few years in a very pleasing way. The school currently has 19 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 annual NAIDOC Week celebrations continue to enhance awareness and pride in the School community.

A relationship has been developed with Parkerville Children and Youth Care, with the school funding a bursary for a student to attend the School based in the residential community.

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. Departments are conducting facilitated motivation-based sessions on 'Autonomy Mastery Purpose' (AMP) to enable a focus on individual career plans and matching interests with school projects.

The Headmaster hosted the inaugural International Boys' Schools Coalition Australia and New Zealand regional conference in April, focussed on the theme 'Education for Character'. More than 80 delegates from boy's schools in the region attended and found the programme highly engaging.

Council

We thanked retiring council member Mrs Fiona Pollard for her years of service supporting the School in February and in that month also welcomed new council members John Poynton and Matthew McNeilly.

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