



# Christ Church Grammar School

## **Holistic approach**

In 2015 the School decided to establish The Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing. The Centre's goal is to influence and inspire our boys to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellbeing and embraces the whole school, engaging and educating boys throughout their time in our Preparatory and Senior School. We believe that there is not one aspect of a student's development that is more important than another, and that is why we look beyond the physical body and take a holistic approach to develop the:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Social
- Spiritual; and
- Intellectual health of the boys.

This holistic approach takes into account the many external and environmental factors which could be supporting or impacting a boy's overall health and wellness. The Health and Wellbeing curriculum delivered in each classroom, is age and stage specific and often supported by presentations from experts in their field. These speaker events are generally extended to family and community members so that the conversations can be continued in the home and community.

Our pastoral care is about supporting each student in their entire school life experience whilst engaging families in the process. The pastoral team primary contact points are the Heads of House and Tutors and they are supported by Psychological Services.

## **Contact with female students**

Contact with female students forms a critical part of a Christ Church education. Students from neighbouring girls schools are part of our boys learning from a very young age. The interactions are designed to suit the age group and are in a non-competitive setting such as the Year 8 Cape to Cave Outdoor Education, Year 9 On Queenslea Drive Program and Year 10 and 11 dances. The students also engage in Debating and Drama, Music concerts, Quiz nights, and sports including swimming events and fun netball games. Additionally, there are tours and trips where the students from surrounding schools come together to enjoy a range of activities and form strong friendships - Service in Action tours and the Canberra Year 6 trip are examples of this.

Everyday our *Crossing the Fence* students walk to and through the neighbouring campus to attend classes, and many students catch school buses together. Both of these result in a constant mix of boys and girls on campus.

## **Inclusion and gender diversity**

We value excellence, diversity and inclusion. Currently 50% of our teaching staff are male and 50% female and the School Council has a similar ratio. We know that diversity is critical for sustaining performance and expanding perspectives.

## **Relationship conversations**

These pivotal conversations happen at certain times throughout the educational journey. All of the information discussed in class is supported in some way either with readings, a publication, a presenter or an experience to explore and consolidate the learning. The learnings can be as fundamental as a Year 1 teacher discussing values, to Year 7 when there is a mother/son experience with Bill Jennings and Year 8 when the *Talk Soon/Talk Often* publication is mailed to parents. Our OQD mother/son weekend and presentations by Melinda Tankard-Reist are age appropriate for our Year 9 boys and in Year 10 we commence with advanced sexual health conversations including hearing from Jonathon Doyle and David Castenelli.

## **Alcohol**

The School does not support end of season celebrations, run by the School or parents, that involve alcohol for students. In the majority of cases, the School hosts an event to ensure the boys have time to come together at the conclusion of the games/seasons. Research from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) states that **there is no safe level of alcohol consumption** for teenagers under 18. Since November 2015 it has been an offence for anyone to supply under 18's with alcohol in a private setting without parental or guardian permission and carries a \$10,000 fine. As I stated on Monday to our Year 12 parents, we need to approach this as a united front, there is a lot of pressure on the youth of today and it is important that we send a cohesive message regarding no alcohol.

## **Parties and events**

Parents often ask me for my view on post-school event gatherings and other out-of-school student events/parties. I hope the following comments assist you to make decisions that will ensure any such events complement (rather than conflict) the ethos of the School and what we believe to be in the best interests of our boys, parents, families and the wider community.

I consistently reinforce that such events are a parental responsibility and are attended by students, given parental permission.

Large parties, no matter how well-managed and co-ordinated by well-meaning parents, can create difficult situations if the young participants act in a way that their standard of behaviour is at odds with the School's expectations and that of their parents, who may or may not be in attendance. Young people at times will make poor judgements about what is, or is not, appropriate in such environments where a group mentality and peer pressure can be at their most elevated. Most often, the 'complications' occur with large numbers and the introduction of alcohol - either intentionally in a controlled manner or otherwise. As a reminder alcohol consumption by people under 18 years of age is illegal and those involved risk prosecution.

## **Conversation on consent**

The issue of consent is extremely important and as I have explained above, we approach the education of all aspects of Health and Wellbeing throughout the boys' journey at the School. We also have a range of resources for parents to access. Please follow this [link](#) to view a video regarding a Conversation on Consent. The content of which is part of our Health and Wellbeing curriculum in Year 10. Please also visit the [Building Good Men Blog](#) for research-based articles on academic excellence, health and wellbeing in boys and raising boys.

## **Alan Jones**

Principal