



Columba College

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 2006

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Dear Parents and Students,

With the new school year about to start next week, we extend greetings to you all, especially new parents and students. We hope everyone has enjoyed a happy holiday and a good start to 2006. It has certainly been a longer holiday than usual – occasioned by the Ministry of Education's decision to extend the school year until Friday, 15th December.

## **School resumes as follows:**

**Years 1 to 8**                      **Tuesday, 7th February at 8.30 a.m. (full days to follow).**

**Years 9 to 13**                    **Wednesday, 8th February at 8.30 a.m. (full days to follow).**

The areas for students to report to on the respective first days are:

Junior School	All Years 1 to 6 children are to go straight to their 2006 classrooms (Mrs Hogg will be sending a letter out this week to advise parents of their children's 2006 teachers and classes).
Years 7 and 8	Assembly Hall
Year 9	Frances Ross Common Room of Girton
Year 10	Caroline Freeman Theatre of Girton
Year 11	Miller Lecture Theatre of Braemar
Year 12	Assembly Hall
Year 13	Upstairs classrooms of the Sports Centre

There will be senior students at the main entry points to the College on Wednesday to help students unsure of where to go.

## **Course Confirmations for Years 11 to 13 Students**

All girls in the above Year levels are required to attend one of the two Course Confirmation sessions in Girton. Heads of Department, the Careers Adviser and senior staff will be present.

Each girl will be issued with a course confirmation sheet which HODs will sign, indicating that any course prerequisites have been met and giving course approval.

The dates and times are: **Friday, 3rd February**    **2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, 7th February**    **2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.**

## **Intermediate Department**

The Years 7 and 8 Form Teachers are:

Year 7 (two classes)	Mrs V. Monteith (Dean) Miss J. Carroll	Year 8 (two classes)	Mrs A. Walker (Dean) Mrs D. Harley
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All four classes have their Form Rooms upstairs in the Hall Block where most of their classes are taught.

Unfortunately, Mrs Monteith will be absent for the first three weeks of term as she is convalescing from an operation on her foot. Mrs A. Hancock who is very familiar with the Intermediate Department will be relieving full-time for Mrs Monteith.

## **New Cybersafety Use Agreement (Years 4 to 13)**

A reminder to ensure that all the new Agreements are returned signed to:

Mrs J. McMahon, Head of ICT, Columba College, Private Bag 1911, Dunedin **by the start of term.**

Failure to return signed Agreements will mean that students will not have school e-mail and Internet access from the beginning of term. The School Office has extra copies if Agreements have been misplaced.

## **New Tracksuit (Years 7 to 13)**

Stock of the new tracksuit is expected at school on Friday, 3rd February.

It is compulsory for all girls in Years 7 to 13 who play sport in a school team (including Social teams). For 2006 there will be an exception for Year 13 girls – the tracksuit will only be compulsory for Year 13 girls in Senior A teams. The tracksuit is purchased as a set (jacket and pants).

As around 400 plus girls have to be issued with a tracksuit, we are proposing to distribute the sets in class time in week 1 to avoid congestion in the School Office foyer. Mrs A. Hancock, Uniform Exchange Manager, will be in charge of the distribution. The tracksuits will then be charged to accounts.

Parents who would like to view the tracksuit are, however, very welcome to see it in the School Office.

## **Physical Education Uniform (Years 7 to 13)**

The new tracksuit is being introduced mainly for sport with the following used for P.E. classes:

- Regulation plain navy blue shorts (Canterbury) - compulsory
  - available through School Office at a reduced price
- Navy blue sports shirt with school crest - compulsory
  - Uniform Department, Arthur Barnett
- Regulation rugby jersey for extra warmth - compulsory
  - School Office
- White ankle socks and gym shoes - compulsory
- Regulation plain navy blue trackpants (Canterbury) - optional
  - School Office (also at a reduced price)

With proper facilities in the Sports Centre for the girls to change in, all students will be expected to wear correct P.E. uniform for their P.E. classes.



### **Commencement Service at Knox Church**

**Thursday, 9th February at 7.00 p.m.**

A Church Service at Knox will be held to mark the start of the new academic year with all school families invited to attend.

Girls in Years 7 to 13 will be required to attend the Service (attendance is optional for the Junior School).

### **Traffic in School Grounds**

The Board of Trustees has recently reviewed its policy on traffic in the school grounds in order to provide for safer movement of foot traffic on campus and to minimise vehicular traffic.

Please note the following points that will apply from the beginning of 2006.

- There will be no access to the school grounds for parents dropping off/picking up children at the beginning/end of the school day i.e. students are to be dropped off by a footpath on the street. Cars travelling south along Highgate are advised to stop before the pedestrian crossing to drop students off so they can then cross at the patrolled crossing.
- Authorised personnel only will be able to park in the school grounds. e.g. staff who will have designated car parks. Please note that the new car park being developed on the Oman Street side of the Sports Centre will include designated car parks and cannot be used as a waiting bay by parents collecting children from the Junior School.
- Maximum speed limit on campus will be 5kph.

Parents are asked to adhere to the above policy and also to respect the time limits for parking on the streets surrounding the campus and not to park over the driveways of neighbouring properties.

### **HOMESTAY REQUEST**

#### **2006 EDOGAWA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL VISIT**

**27th February – 18th March**

#### **An Urgent Request**

Please are you able to assist the College by hosting an Edogawa student?

We require a further twenty-five host families.

Edogawa Girls' High School wishes to receive the names of host families by early February, hence the urgency. If you require further information, homestay forms or have any queries, please telephone me.

We are very grateful to the Columba families who have already offered to host a Japanese student.

Thank you,

Anne Hancock  
Visit Co-ordinator  
Telephone 467 5476

- **Shoes** Black lace-up school shoes are compulsory for Years 7 to 13 (**no slip-ons**).
- **Kilts** Two are required:
 

Summer kilt	Terms I and IV
Winter kilt	Terms II and III (and dress occasions)
- **V-neck Vests** The older style proved to be a mixed blessing as it was short to begin with and seemed to become shorter with every wash. Not helpful with keeping blouses tucked in! A longer length vest has been introduced and is now available in the Uniform Department of Arthur Barnett. It would be much appreciated if the earlier ones that have become too short could be replaced.
- **Make-up** The wearing of make-up with school and sports uniform became quite an issue with a few girls last year who were disappointingly quite persistent in their attempts.  
  
A special request: Parental assistance with ensuring that girls don't come to school wearing make-up would be very much appreciated by school staff.

### **Some Dates for Noting**

Thursday, 9th February	9.30 a.m. Road Patrol training for 2006 at school (1½ hours).
Friday, 10th February	8.30 a.m. start - Years 7 to 13 ID photographs.
Thursday, 16th February	Day outing for Year 9 students.
Friday, 17th February	2.45 p.m. Service of Installation for the Prefects and Senior Students with afternoon-tea to follow. Parents are warmly invited to attend.
Friday, 24th February	Years 7 to 13 Athletic Sports at the Caledonian (Monday, 27th February postponement date).
Saturday, 11th March	Otago Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships.
Sunday - Tuesday, 12th - 14th March	St. Andrew's Summer Exchange (Christchurch).
Saturday, 18th March	Otago/Southland Athletics Championships - Dunedin.
<b>Monday, 20th March</b>	<b>Otago Anniversary Day. School closed.</b>
Saturday, 25th March	School Fair.

### **Fittings for New Winter Kilts**

Mrs A. Corry of Helean Kiltmakers will be at school on **Wednesday, 15th February from 1.00 p.m. to 1.50 p.m.** to measure girls who require new winter kilts. **The fittings will be in the School Office on the Hill Jack campus** with parents very welcome to attend. Winter uniform is worn in Terms II and III with summer uniform worn again in Term IV.

### **2006 School Diary and Homework Note-Book**

All girls in Years 7 to 12 inclusive are issued with the School Diary and Homework Note-Book on Day 1 (it is optional for Year 13).

With good wishes to you all for the year ahead,

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Wilson  
Principal  
30th January, 2006