

Dear Parents and Students,

Good wishes and greetings to you all as the 2008 school year is about to begin. I hope the summer holidays have been a time of refreshment and relaxation for everyone. The wonderful summer weather has made these holidays especially enjoyable – long may it continue into Term One.

### **Start of School**

This year all Year levels start school on the same day:

**Tuesday, 5th February at 8.30 a.m. with a full day to follow.**

The areas for students to report to are:

Junior School	All Years 1 to 6 children are to go straight to their 2008 classrooms.
Years 7 and 8	Sports Centre (entry from Oban Street).
Year 9	Frances Ross Common Room of Girton.
Year 10	Caroline Freeman Theatre of Girton.
Years 11 and 12	Assembly Hall.
Year 13	Miller Lecture Theatre.

We will have senior students outside the School Office on Tuesday morning to help students unsure of where to go.

Waitangi Day: School will be closed. Full days for all Year levels follow on Thursday and Friday.

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

All girls in the above Year levels are required to attend the Course Confirmation session in Girton. Heads of Departments, 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 date and times are: **Monday, 4th February 1.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

### **Staff News**

We have a number of staff to welcome this year:

**Ms Macaela Bakker**

**Year 7 Dean (full-time)**

BEEd (Primary)

Ms Bakker will teach English to both Year 7 classes, a Year 7 Mathematics class and Health to her Form class.

**Mrs Gillian Blair** **Year 7 Form Teacher and Teacher (full-time)**

BSc Hons (Edinburgh University), PGCE (Primary)

Mrs Blair will teach a Year 7 Science class, a Year 7 Social Studies class, Health to her Form class and Religious Studies to all four Intermediate classes. She will also maintain her involvement in the Junior School by teaching Ms Pearson's Year 2 class in Term One on Thursdays and for part of Monday.

**Mrs Anna Noble (formerly Stüdemann)** **Years 7 to 11 German (full-time)**

BA, PGDipArts

Mrs Noble will be a Year 9 Form Teacher and also teach German at the above Year levels with Ms Riethmaier taking a Year 9 German class and Years 12 and 13 German. Mrs Noble got married during the holidays.

**Mr Luke Smith** **Computing and ICT (full-time)**

BEd (Secondary Technology)

Mr Smith will teach a Year 13 Computing class, a Year 11 Computing class, both Year 10 Computing classes, the Year 10 ICT Unit and one of the two Year 9 ICT Units.

**Mrs Janiene Hill** **Years 7 to 10 Dance and Drama (part-time)**

BA, DipTchg, Cert TESOL (Trinity College)

Mrs Hill will teach all the above Units for 8 periods a week.

**Mr Chris Whalley** **Chinese (part-time)**

BA, DipPE, DipTchg, Cert TESOL (Trinity College)

Mr Whalley will teach Chinese from Years 7 to 10, and also the Year 6 Chinese language programme to be held during the year.

**Ms Yoshimi Kurosawa** **Japanese (part-time)**

BEd, DipTchg

Ms Kurosawa will teach the Years 11, 12 and 13 Japanese classes this year while also maintaining her part-time Japanese teaching at King's High School.

**Mrs Charissa Nicol** **Mathematics (part-time)**

BSc, BA(Hons) (Music), DipTchg

Mrs Nicol is teaching two Mathematics classes: Years 9 and 10.

**Mrs Janine Southby** **Intermediate Department and Junior School (part-time)**

BEd, DipTchg

Mrs Southby will teach a Year 7 Social Studies class and do part of Mrs Hogg's weekly release time, namely every Thursday. She will also teach a GATE extension programme in Physical Education.

**Mrs Mary Hill** **Mathematics (part-time)**

BA, DipGrad, PGDipArts

Mrs Hill has been appointed to teach again this year, and will take two classes: a Year 7 Mathematics class and a Year 8 Mathematics class.

To the Junior School, in addition to Mrs Southby, we welcome **Miss Jane McGarry**, BA, BTchg (Primary), who will be relieving for Ms Pearson (Year 2) during her term's leave.

Mrs Diane Nees is taking leave in Terms One and Two for medical reasons, and we wish her well for her recovery and return to school in Term Three. The Year 6 class will be team-taught by **Mrs Valerie Ashton**, BEd, DipTchg, and **Mrs Kathryn Lodge**, BEd, DipTchg, during Mrs Nees' leave.

At the end of last year we farewelled Mrs Vivienne Monteith, Year 7 Dean, to Melbourne; Mr Gary Hayden, Year 7 Teacher, to a year's leave back home in Australia; Mrs Pamela Hooper, HOD Music, to a year's leave for overseas travel; Mrs Dorothy Kudson, Classical Studies, to retirement; and also the following part-time staff - Ms Fiona Kerr (Japanese), Mrs Juliana Pu (Chinese), Mrs Donnine Harrison (Dance) and Mrs Julie Nailard (German).

**Mr Richard Madden**, an experienced HOD Music, has been appointed Acting HOD Music for 2008. Mr Madden taught Music part-time at Columba last year so has had time to get to know the Music Department. Mr Madden will also take the Madrigal Choir as well as the Intermediate Choir, with **Ms Justine Pierre**, MusB, DipGrad, PGDipArts(Dist), AIRMT, Suzuki 1A, taking over the School Orchestra this year.

## **Katharine Buchan House Refurbishment**

The major project for the holidays has been the refurbishment of the Junior Boarding House which has also included the Recreation Room and downstairs foyer. A “new” look has been created with a changed décor (painting, new curtains and carpet) and provision for greater privacy for each boarder.

We are very pleased with the result and look forward to the girls’ seeing it next week.

## **2008 ID Photographs for Years 7 to 13 Students**

These are being taken at school on Thursday, 7th February in the morning. This will be the second year when the girls will also be using them as swipe cards at the School Canteen and to photocopy in the Library.

## **Commencement Service at Knox Church on Monday, 11th February at 7.30 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).

## **Fittings for New Winter Kilts**

Mrs A. Corry of Helean Kiltmakers will be at school on **Tuesday, 19th 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** with parents very welcome to attend. Winter uniform is worn in Terms Two and Three with summer uniform worn again in Term Four.

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

The new tracksuit is used 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
- Navy blue Merino “Earth Sea Sky” top (long-sleeved) - optional  
- School Office
- White ankle socks and gym shoes - compulsory
- Regulation plain navy blue trackpants (Canterbury) - optional  
- School Office (also at a reduced price)
- Columba sports bag - compulsory  
- School Office

All students are required to wear correct P.E. uniform for their P.E. classes.

## **Some Dates for Noting**

### **FEBRUARY**

**Monday, 11th**

9.30 a.m. Road Patrol training at school.

**Thursday, 14th**

- Year 13 Leadership Day.
- Year 9 Day Outing.

**Friday, 15th**

2.30 p.m. Service of Installation for the Prefects and Senior Students in Constance Hall, followed by afternoon-tea for parents, staff and Year 13 students.

<b>Friday, 22nd</b>	Years 7 to 13 Athletics Sports at the Caledonian Ground. Postponement date: 25th February.
<b>Saturday, 23rd to Thursday, 13th March</b>	Visit by Edogawa Girls' High School.
<b>Friday, 29th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit by the Ugly Shakespeare Company. 9.00 a.m. "Romeo and Juliet". 10.00 a.m. "The Scottish Play".</li> <li>• German Exchange students here from 29th February – 2nd May.</li> </ul>
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>Friday, 7th and Saturday, 8th</b>	Otago Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships – Dunedin.
<b>Sunday, 9th</b>	South Island Tri/duathlon – Oamaru.
<b>Friday, 14th and Saturday, 15th</b>	Otago/Southland Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships Dunedin.
<b>Saturday, 15th</b>	School Fair.
<b>Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th</b>	South Island Secondary Schools' Rowing Championships – Lake Ruataniwha.
<b>Sunday, 16th to Tuesday, 18th</b>	Summer Tournament with St. Andrew's College – Christchurch.
<b>Thursday, 20th</b>	2.30 p.m. Easter Service at school.
<b>Friday, 21st</b>	<b>Good Friday. School closed.</b>
<b>Monday, 24th</b>	<b>Easter Monday. School closed.</b>
<b>Tuesday, 25th</b>	<b>Easter Tuesday. School closed.</b>
<b>Saturday, 29th to Monday, 31st</b>	South Island Secondary Schools' Waterpolo Championships – Christchurch.
<b>Monday, 31st to Sunday, 6th April</b>	Aon Maadi Cup Regatta – Lake Ruantaniwha.
<b>APRIL</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 1st</b>	Junior School Swimming Carnival – Moana Pool.
<b>Thursday, 3rd</b>	Columba Careers Showcase: 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, 5th to Sunday, 6th</b>	South Island Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships – Timaru.
<b>Friday, 18th</b>	3.35 p.m. End of Term One.

There will be another school mailing once school starts with news of our 2007 NCEA results and "Meet the Teacher" functions for the term. We look forward to welcoming students to the new school year and to seeing you at school functions as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wilson  
Principal  
29th January, 2008