

Diocesan Synod Report 2021 – Christ’s College

Many significant events have marked our year. Bishop Richard Wallace, Māori Bishop of the Anglican Māori Diocese of Waipounamu, lead the Mihi Whakatau for new staff and students. On Ash Wednesday, the most senior member of the Church of England to have been part of a Christ’s College service in our 170 years was here: His Grace The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, and his wife, The Reverend Margaret Sentamu. In 2020 we held the inaugural Year 13 joint Chapel service with St Margaret’s College in our Chapel. Also, Bishop Peter Carrell dedicated a new window in memory of Old Boy, Jock Hobbs.

Obviously, the year was dominated by Covid-19. In lockdown, I posted online videos of short services. Kiwis had to adapt their faith practices: during lockdown: Christians celebrated Holy Week and Easter Day; Jews celebrated Passover; Muslims were in the holy month of Ramadan.

We continue to develop our bicultural commitment. I was privileged to join Bishop Richard Wallace in blessing two new korowai. One is for the Executive Principal, the other for the Head Prefect.

Everywhere, there is an increasing emphasis on mental health, on wellbeing. Our school has expanded our counselling and clinical psychologists staffing in our Centre for Wellbeing and Positive Education. All this builds well on our Christian foundations.

We are delighted that Old Boy Eddie Bijl (2004-08) is at St John’s College, Auckland, as part of his training and formation for the priesthood.

The school is in the process of creating a Christ’s College Diploma (CCD) which will begin next year. This development will alter the way we provide and assess education and formation in the school. It will replace Level 1 NCEA assessment, and will better present a student’s learning and growth in the wider dimensions beyond the classroom as well as his academic achievements. It will also more explicitly build year upon year in all areas.

The school is in excellent heart, with the largest number of students in our history. We continue to worship together as a whole school in Chapel on weekdays by some creative addition of chairs in our Chancel area.

Christ, whose name our school bears, is constantly presented as our model. The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care has highlighted some abject failures in our past and challenged us to respond to appalling events in our history in a Christlike way. Our treatment of others, both within and beyond the Christ’s College whānau, measures the reality of the virtues and values that we profess.

Rev. Bosco Peters (Chaplain)
Mr Hugh Lindo (Chair of the Board)