



CRAIGHEAD

DIOCESAN SCHOOL

General Synod Report 2019

Who is God?

Students are increasingly curious about who Jesus is and what he has done. Consistently students ask, “who is Jesus?”, “What is a Christian?” and have specifically requested to learn more about “Jesus’s life... what he did... why he’s important.” Thus, Religious and Social Education has transitioned into Christian Education helping to clarify our Special Character as Christian, expressed through Anglicanism.

Like many other Special Character schools in New Zealand we have increased our roll. In a culture of ‘choice anxiety’ and pick-a-path morality – many families are seeking strong character development for their young people. It is right that we heed the Prayer book’s confession to “be who we claim to be” and continue to be explicit in what we believe.

We were excited to host the Anglican Schools Conference in May 2019. It was a great opportunity to reflect and start conversations about our Chapel Technology. Our worship music, think about the spaces of worship we use and how our Special Character is displayed in other areas of the school. In term three the Chapel topic was “what is worship” and explored differing worship styles – including an outdoor service and a much loved glow stick Chapel. At the end of the term student feedback was collated and the decision was made to include technology in the Chapel and look for ways for students to lead and select the music.

Looking toward 2020 and beyond, we have three projects.

One; connect students with the new South Canterbury Youth worker in a St John’s (Highfield, Kensington and Otipua) Youth Group. Two: set up technology in the Chapel in line with Mark Five of the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. Three: seek ways to promote the Special Character of the school explicitly using the Anglican Communion’s Five Marks of Mission; which will include, staff Professional Development, revision of the class Curriculum, and Chapel services which explore the core tenants of Christian faith – leading toward our baptism and confirmation services.

As we look ahead to “new joys, and new possibilities” and recognise that classroom space will be a potential issue in the future.

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Chaplain and TIC Christian Education

Nicky Hyslop
Board of Proprietors Chair