

Board of Trustees annual report for 2005

This has been a very busy and positive year for the School and the Board of Trustees. I want to extend my personal thanks to Trevor McIntyre for his strong leadership and sensitive stewardship of the school over this last year. It has been an exciting year with many highs, including the impromptu visit of Prince William, together with a lot of positive media attention and community support for the many activities where our boys have achieved success.

There have also been some disappointing occasions when the behaviour of our boys has attracted negative community attention. The purpose of the discipline processes administered by both the School and the Board is to help the boys take responsibility for their mistakes and to help them learn how to manage their own behaviour by building their own inner sense of discipline. The management of the discipline process has been an area of development for the Board this year. We have updated some of the processes and have been liaising with Boards of Trustees at other secondary schools in the area to identify successful strategies to help students fortify themselves against the many negative social pressures that exist. The continuing promotion of the 'Fine young man' programme within the School, together with the discipline processes, ensures that the boys are given clear and consistent messages about behaviour that is expected from them.

The Board was delighted with the outcome of the three-yearly visit from the Education Review Office team during August 2005. The outcome reflects well on the hard work and commitment of the staff at the School in providing an excellent learning environment for our boys. The team provided useful feedback on teaching techniques, and helpful suggestions about using the School's achievement data to improve lesson planning. They observed a 'culture of respect' that they attributed to the positive relationships between both students and staff, and between staff. The team was able to speak directly with a wide range of students and reported a high level of engagement and enjoyment in the classroom experience.

The Board has completed a lot of longer term planning this year. Thank you to those in the school community who completed surveys relating both to the strategic plan and the Headmaster's appraisal. This feedback is very valuable as it helps us to focus on what the community wants from the School. The School's Strategic Plan was updated in April 2005. Our school motto, *Altiora Peto* – 'I seek higher things', is a galvanizing vision for each boy at the School to be the best he can be. We have identified five invigorating strategic goals to help us focus our effort for the next three-year period. These are 1. Build a smart school, 2. Develop excellence in educational leadership, 3. Attract, grow and retain fantastic teachers, 4. Every boy has a plan – career and lifelong learning, 5. Develop fine young men. These are exciting goals that will help us to achieve our mission, which is to become the pre-eminent provider of boys' education in New Zealand, and which will determine our detailed annual objectives and targets for the next while. More information on the strategic goals is available on our website at <http://www.cbhs.school.nz/board/strategicplandraft/>.

The Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of School policy during 2005. It has been useful to do this alongside the strategic planning process, to ensure that the intent and desired direction for the School is reflected in our policies. The Board is also actively working to reduce its sub-committees, transferring this role to School management, and focusing instead on a rolling review programme to systematically and regularly audit the management procedures in the School to ensure these deliver on the outcomes we have identified in the policies. The only remaining Board Committee is the Resources Committee (finance, property, health & safety) that will remain in place while there are significant projects still being completed in these areas.

The Board is working on the development of a Ten Year Property Plan for the School. The work to improve the teaching spaces in the existing Caldwell Block has been completed, and the new food technology block will be ready for classes in 2006. The completion of this block represents an exciting new addition to the range of learning and vocational options for our boys at the School. Given the age and layout of our building infrastructure there are significant current and future maintenance issues that we are planning for at the moment. In addition to the maintenance aspects of the Plan, we are also working to identify priorities for new developments and overall improvements to the School environment. The Board has also initiated the development of a comprehensive Health and Safety Management Plan for the School. Work on the plan is currently underway.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the success of the School's hostel, Adams House. This is an attractive, special and much loved feature of the School, very ably managed by Richard Taylor and his on-site team to create a supportive and family-like environment for the lucky boys who live there. I am always very impressed by the commitment and dedication of the hostel parents, who despite the distance that many of them are from the hostel, take an active part in School life and support a wide range of School activities.

My personal thanks go to the other members of the Board who have worked really hard this year to work through a very full agenda. The other parent trustees Alan Gibbs, Nigel Mayson, Ian McKenzie, Jon McAuliffe have made their commitment to the Board a priority. It has been a pleasure for us to work with the student trustee this year, Nick Stielow. Nick who is a hostel student, is a great example of a 'fine young man' and we have really valued his contribution. We wish him well for his life after school. Bruce Harding has continued in the staff trustee role and provides a valuable perspective of the school's operation for the parent trustees on the Board. I would also like to thank the Deputy Headmaster, Paul McWilliam, for his support of the Board over the year, and his careful and responsible leadership of the School when the Headmaster has been absent. Nigel Mayson resigned from the Board in August 2005 and the parent trustee vacancy will be filled by appointment. I also want to thank Peter Townsend who chaired the Board's Discipline Committee for a period while other Trustees were learning about the processes. This marks the end of a long association with the Board for Peter, and his wisdom and input has been much appreciated. Charles de Lambert has been co-opted to

the Board for a period of nine months to support the Board with our transition from standing Board committees to school management committees, and to assist the Board to establish an auditing programme for the School's management procedures. My personal thanks too to Anne Johnston, from Canterbury Education Services, who provides the Board with knowledgeable and professional secretarial services.

Once again I also want to thank the many people who contribute to the success of the School. It is a big complex organisation to operate, and the School is very fortunate to have the support from parents through the PTA, in addition to the Old Boys' Association, and the Te Kura Trust. Their input and contribution is greatly appreciated. And last but certainly not least, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank the senior management, administration, support and teaching staff for their dedication and commitment. As a result of your hard work and endeavors, our boys enjoy a positive and caring learning environment and are fine young men.

Debbie Dawson

Chairperson

Board of Trustees

Christchurch Boys' High School

October 2005