

7 February 2025

Principal's Report

Welcome to 2025

I would like to extend a welcome to all families returning to Canterbury Girls' Secondary College and to those families who are joining the College for the first time. Last Thursday, we welcomed the new Year 7 students and their parents. There was great deal of excitement and some apprehension, but the Middle School teachers soon made the students feel at ease, and by recess, they seemed to have settled in.

I would also like to welcome new staff to the College. The new staff are Sam Bates (Drums and Percussion), Sharon Batterham (Voice), Natalie Crawford (Science and Maths), Ben Delves (Guitar and Bass), Alysha James (Legal Studies and Humanities), Karen Nansen (Clarinet), Yao Song (Maths and Science), Della Lai (Maths and Science), Santo Fileccia (PE), Marie-Claire Holm (French), Georgia Psevdos (Food Technology), Mary Maniatis (English), Karen Goodwin (French) and Elsie Chan (ES support).

We know that they will make a very effective contribution to our teaching and learning programs.

VCE results 2024

The VCE newsletter was emailed detailing the outstanding VCE results from last year. I am very pleased to be able to congratulate the College DUX for 2024, Charlize Yarlett. We will have an opportunity to publicly acknowledge Charlize as DUX at Canterbury Celebrates at the end of the year. The updated VCE newsletter is available on the website.

School Council elections

Nominations for School Council opened at 9.00am on Monday 3 February 2025. There is information below about the role of School Council and detailed information about the call for nominations. There are four parent member vacancies. Nomination forms have been emailed to all parents. Nominations close at 4.00pm on Monday 10 February 2025.

Activities Term 1

For parents who are new to the College, the major student events this term are House Chorals which are held in the last week of Term 1, and the House Swimming Sports which are on Monday 3 March. I would encourage all students to participate in the Chorals Festival which runs through the whole term. All students are expected to attend the swimming sports and to participate either by being in an event or by supporting their House. For Year 7 parents, the welcome evening will be held on Monday 17 February. There will be further information for parents closer to each event.

I look forward to a great 2025. I am confident that our school community will work together to ensure a positive experience this year.

Dr Mary Cannon
Principal

A reminder to parents and guardians to follow parking signs when visiting the school. A number of the streets are permit areas.

CONNECT WITH US



Many students travel by public transport. It is important that students have valid myki cards when travelling on trains and buses. We have received information from the Department of Transport and Planning about a new app that enables an instant top up of the myki card balance.

You do not have to register an account in order to use the top up feature.

However, they strongly recommend that you do register your myki so you can protect your balance and take advantage of other PTV App features such as auto top up or managing multiple cards.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category according to Ministerial Order 1280. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty.



- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school. Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Middle School News

It was very exciting to welcome the 2025 Year 7 students to CGSC on Thursday 30 January. After meeting in McMillan Hall, the Year 7 students headed off to their Homerooms with their Homeroom teachers who explained lots of valuable information! As part of the Orientation activities, lockers were organised, students toured the school and class photos were taken. Students are now used to using their timetables and diaries and have enjoyed their first classes - well done on a great start to secondary school! Lots of exciting activities will happen over the next few weeks, including the Year 7 Camp, musical instrument try outs in Music classes, Cheerleading practice and Chorals auditions!

Teaching and Learning News

French News

Bienvenue à une nouvelle année scolaire! We are looking forward to another year of language learning and we would like to introduce some members of our French team.

Bonjour! I am excited to teach in the Middle School and am looking forward to sharing my experiences in French speaking countries. I have lived in Canada and France for extended periods of time and recently returned from a trip to New Caledonia. I enjoy using music and games in the classroom and making connections with students. I strongly believe students learn best when they ask lots of questions!

Madame Holm French teacher

Salut! I have always had a passion for French! Being brought up speaking French amongst other languages, I have lived in and visited a lot of francophone countries. I enjoy all the wonderful cultural aspects of these places, and particularly French food! As language learners, students should embrace the opportunities that knowing French can provide, and follow the three "Ps": patience, perseverance, and positivity! It is all about trying one's best and remembering we all learn differently.





Madame Goodwin
French teacher

Community Liaison News - save the date!

The Community Liaison Student Team is made up of student leaders from each year level and the first event organised by the 2025 Community Liaison Student Team will be the annual International Women's Day Breakfast which will take place this year on Friday March 7 at 7.30-8.30am in McMillan Hall.

International Women's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and parents, grandparents, students and staff will have the opportunity to come together for a light breakfast and to hear from an inspiring guest speaker.

The Community Liaison Student Team would also welcome any donations of either goods or vouchers that can be used as door prizes or in a raffle, so if you can help in any way, please feel free to contact the Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Gabrielle Muir at gbe@cgsc.vic.edu.au

Tickets will be available soon from TryBooking, so keep an eye on Compass for more information!

We thank you in advance for your support and hope to see you at the IWD Breakfast.

Gabrielle Muir
Community Liaison Co-ordinator

News from the Music Department

Year 7 Enrolment in Music lessons

It is not too late!! There are still places for some instruments at Year 7, we are running demonstrations and trials in classroom music. As per the information sent out last year, to confirm enrolment in lessons please complete the event (consent and payment) on Compass.

Lessons will commence after Year 7 Camp in the week of 17 February.

Sessions will appear on the student's Compass schedule once the enrolment event has been completed.

Ensemble rehearsals commence later in Term 1.

13 March Year 7 Band – First rehearsal 7.45am.

14 March Vivace Strings – First rehearsal 7.45am

Re-enrolment in Music Lessons

Reminder to complete the enrolment event (consent and payment) on Compass. Once completed Instrumental music teachers can create the classes and they will appear on the student's Compass schedule.

Welcome to new Music staff!

There are some big changes to the music staff at CGSC in 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new staff members to the music team.

- Karen Nansen - Clarinet and Year 7 classroom.
- Ben Delves - Guitar and Electric Bass teacher.
- Sam Bates – Percussion and Drumkit
- Sharon Batterham – In addition to continuing her previous role of Cantabella director, will also be re-introducing an open choir and taking vocal lessons.

Labeling Instruments

Please label instruments clearly with a name and home group. Names need to be clearly visible, as many students have identical cases. It can be distressing for all if a student accidentally takes the wrong instrument home.

Rehearsal schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		<u>Coda</u> <u>BKE</u> 7.45 - 8.35am BKE	<u>Symphonia (Yr 8 Band)</u> <u>KNA</u>	<u>Year 7 Band</u> (from March 13) MSW 7.45 – 8.35 BR	<u>Vivace Strings</u> (from March 14) <u>KDI</u> 7.45 – 8.35am
Lunch	<u>Flute Ensemble</u> <u>BKE</u>	<u>Theory</u>		<u>String Quartet</u> <u>C23</u> <u>AOP</u>	
PM	<u>Shades of Blue</u> MSW 3.15pm-4.30pm	<u>Wind Symphony</u> <u>MSW</u> 3.15-4.30pm BR <u>Cantabile</u> – AOP 3.15-4.15pm <u>C19</u>	<u>Cantabella</u> <u>Sharon Batterham</u> 3.15 – 4.45pm PAC Guitar Ensemble - TBA	<u>Encore</u> – AOP 3.15-4.30pm PAC <u>Dolce' Strings</u> <u>KDI</u> 3.15-4.30 C19	

Looking forward to a music filled year!

Term 1

- 7 March International Womens' Day Breakfast-String Quartet, VCE Music vocalists
- 11 March Soiree #1 PAC Time TBA
- 13 March Year 7 Band, First rehearsal, 7.45am
- 14 March Vivace Strings, First rehearsal, 7.45am
- 19 March VCE Music Top Class excursion, Melbourne Recital Centre
- 25 March Chorals Technical rehearsal
- 26 March Victorian Sports Awards MCG, String Quartet
- 2-4 April House Chorals Festival

First Parents' Association Meeting in 2025 and Annual General Meeting

The Parents' Association aims to contribute to the wellbeing of the school community, and encourage all parents and carers to participate in the life of the school and the education of their children. Joining the PA provides you with a chance to get to know other parents and carers and to be informed about the school. The Parents' Association organises events and activities to raise funds for the benefit of the school and also assists with social opportunities during the year.

The first meeting for 2025 will also be the Annual General Meeting. It is scheduled for Tuesday 18 February, at 7:00PM. All parents and carers are welcome! Meetings are held in the Conference Room, in A Block, past the General Office. We look forward to meeting new parents and carers and welcoming others who have assisted the PA in the past. We will vote in office bearers, and can look for volunteers to nominate to lead events. We hope to see you there.

Diary dates

Next monthly meeting and AGM

Date: 18 February 2025

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Conference Room

Office bearers

Vice President: Penny Ison

Vice President: Toni Soukoulis

Secretary: Samantha Whitehead

Treasurer: Cathy Eastwood and Maryanne Galea

Contact: PA@cgsc.vic.edu.au

Public Transport Victoria student travel

Dear Parents and Carers

Public transport Victoria would like to share some information for students at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College. School students can also purchase a half or full year student pass in their chosen area and must also carry a PTV Approved School Student ID card or PTV School Student ID card.

Benefit

A student pass gives you unlimited travel on all train, tram and bus services within your chosen zones until the expiry of the pass.

Who's eligible for a student pass?

You can apply for a student pass if you're:

- a full time primary or secondary student living in Victoria
- a full time student at a Victorian primary or secondary school
- a primary or secondary student approved by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority to be home-schooled
- a full time VCE, VCAL, or Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) student studying at a university or TAFE that is listed on the PTV website

What student passes are available?

Different passes are available depending on where you live or wish to travel.

Victorian Student Pass

The Victorian Student Pass gives you unlimited travel on all public transport operating wholly within Victoria. The pass is a myki card.

To get this pass, you must have a PTV Approved School Student ID card or a PTV School Student ID card. You need to carry your Student Pass and ID when travelling.

Regional Student Pass

The Regional Student Pass gives you unlimited travel on buses and V/Line train services within the zones you choose. Passes for Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo are mykis. Passes for Colac, Portland and Southwest bus networks are paper tickets.

To get this pass, you must have a PTV Approved School Student ID card or a PTV School Student ID. You need to carry your Student Pass and ID when travelling.

Please click on the link below for more information

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/concessions-and-free-travel/children-and-students/school-students/>

John Bourikas
Business Manager



Canteen News

Hello Canterbury Girls' families. My name is Annette and I am your new canteen manager, as part of Hungry Hampers Group.

I have had over 20 years of experience working and running primary and secondary school canteens, and I am looking forward to preparing food for both students and staff throughout the year.

My team have all had experience in the hospitality industry and are keen to bring their flair to the canteen.

I will endeavour to ensure there are lots of healthy eating meals throughout the year, selecting fresh produce from local suppliers.

If you would like to order online you can do so by registering through My School Connect. Please see the next page for details.

Annette
Canteen Manager

Ordering and paying for student lunches

This year, parents and carers are able to order and pay for student lunches on My School Connect. Please note that it is NOT the My School Connect login that you use for ordering uniforms. Please set up a separate login for ordering and paying for lunches.



OUR NEW ONLINE PROVIDER

 Follow these quick & easy steps to get started

STEP 1
 Download the My School Connect app or visit myschoolconnect.com.au

STEP 2
 Join today & create your account

STEP 3
 Add your student information

STEP 4
 Top up your account

STEP 5
 Start ordering !

Students can order lunch via the app 

Download the My School Connect app from Google Play or the App Store

 Download on the **App Store**

 Get it on **Google play**

YWPA – Young Women in Leadership Award

Awarded annually by Zonta International.

OPPORTUNITY for public-spirited girls aged 16-19

Zonta International is a worldwide service organisation whose mission is 'Empowering women through service and advocacy'. Amongst its activities is the **Young Women in Leadership Awards** program.

The goal of the Young Women in Leadership Award Program is to recognise young women, aged 16-19, for demonstrating leadership skills, commitment to public service and civic causes and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life.

Applicants are asked to reflect on their voluntary commitment to their school and to their community and the problems limiting the empowerment of women in their own country and worldwide. The Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award looks to the young women of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

The **Young Women in Leadership Award** honors young women aged 16 to 19, who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government, and volunteer organizations. The program operates at the Zonta Club, district/region and international levels. The Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra provides an award for club recipients of \$A1000, and \$500 for the runner-up ,and there are 37 international awards of \$US5000 which are funded by the Zonta International Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY

Women of age 16-19 on 1 April each year, who demonstrate evidence of the following, are eligible to apply:

- Active commitment to volunteerism.
- Experience in local government, student government, or workplace leadership (paid or unpaid).
- Volunteer leadership achievements.
- Knowledge of Zonta International and its programs.
- Advocating in Zonta International's mission of empowering women worldwide.

The application must start with a Zonta club - in this instance, the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra (www.zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au).

All application materials must be received at the club by Monday 17 March 2025

Send to : info@zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au

(E-mail submission is preferred. Electronic signatures may be used if available. Otherwise, the form will need to be printed, signed and scanned.)

Application forms and award information can be accessed
<http://www.zonta.org/YWLA>

Details for the first section of the form that need to be completed are:

Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra
District 23 Area 1
c/- Suzanne Lees Young Women in Leadership Award Convenor
Victoria
Australia
Mobile: 0400753007
sue.lees@inet.net.au

Please ensure that all required personal information is completed.

*****In 2023 Phoebe Bourke of Sacre Coeur College Gen Iris was the Young Women in Public Affairs winner for 2023, for the Zonta club of Melbourne on Yarra and an international winner.**

Read Phoebe's bio - District 23 winner

<https://www.zonta.org/images/docs/MyZonta/Tools/AwardScholarshipFellowshipTools/YWPA/2023YWPABios.pdf>

To find out more about what the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra does go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/zontamelbourneonyarra/>
<http://zontamelbourneonyarra.org.au/wp1/>

There are many more potential YWPA winners in our schools and universities. Please apply.