

8 February 2024

Principal's Report

Welcome to 2024

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.

Returning to school at the start of the year signals a transition for all – students, staff and parents/carers. [The Raising Children Network](#) is a helpful resource and includes information and tips for supporting your child as they return to school. A balanced diet and ample rest are important as well as good routines.

On Wednesday last week, we welcomed the new Year 7 students and their families. There was a great deal of excitement and understandably some nervousness but the Home Group teachers and Middle School team soon made the students feel at ease, and by the end of the day they walked out of the school gates with smiles on their faces having made further connections with members of their class.

Thanks to the members of The Parents' Association who provided a morning tea for new parents and carers. The PA is always keen to welcome new members so please look for The PA page in each newsletter.

New staff

I would also like to welcome new staff to the College. The new staff are Vivian Chen (Maths/Science), Adam Jarred (PE/ Health), Susie Mioni (Food Technology), Dorothy Li (PE/Food technology), Veronica Deren (French), Clare Ingleton (Maths/Science), Sarah Tregoning (English), Emily Bekkerus (Mental Health Practitioner), Zaiga Bendrups (Senior School Administrative Assistant), Linda Moli (General Office), Jill Schroder (Maths/Science) and Jenny Yelland (PE).

VCE results 2023

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 2023, Lucy Liu. We will have an opportunity to publicly acknowledge Lucy 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 on Monday 5 February 2024 and close at 4pm on Monday 12 February 2024. There is information below about the role of School Council and detailed information about the call for nominations. There are four parent member vacancies.

Activities Term 1

For parents and carers 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 26 February. 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 and carers, the welcome evening will be held on Monday 19 February. There will be further information for parents and carers closer to each event.

Diary Dates Term 1

12-14 Feb	Y7 Lake Dewar Lodge Camp
20 Feb	The Parents' Association Meeting
26 Feb	House Swimming Carnival
27 Feb	School Council Meeting
29 Feb	Year 12 Formal
8 March	International Women's Day Breakfast
11 March	Labour Day
15 March	Year 11 Formal
16 March	Working Bee
19 March	The Parents' Association Meeting
26-27 March	House Chorals
28 March	End of Term 1

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.

For further details click [here](#).

2023 Nouméa Tour

At the end of last year, Gabrielle Muir (Bert), Anna Stewart and I spent 8 glorious days in beautiful Nouméa with 14 eager students. They devoured the food, embraced the language and enthusiastically participated in all activities. We were impressed with the way the students navigated the challenges of being away from home, participated in activities that were, at times, outside their comfort zone and developed their French language skills. A huge thank you to Gabrielle Muir (Bert) and Anna Stewart who worked hard to ensure this experience was positive for all participants. There are further reports in this newsletter.

Privacy notice

Our school collects, uses, disclosures and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#). Please take time to remind yourself of the [school's collection policy](#), found on our website.

School Council information

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.

Georgina Padula
Acting Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Welcome back to the start of 2024. Students in the Senior School are off to a great start.

VCE Processes

On Tuesday 30 January VCE teachers were reminded of a number of processes by Amanda Jackson, Head of Senior School. The following is a snapshot of the processes identified. Each student has also received the VCE Handbook, which also outlines the following processes in detail. A detailed explanation of these processes is on Compass.

Overdue Coursework Form

Teachers to identify activity(ies) in class so that students are able to achieve the outcome via the 'Satisfactory (S)' task. If a student can show satisfactory completion, they will receive an S for the outcome. However, if a student receives an N on a 'S' Task, this means they MUST pass their SAC. The teacher will complete the 'Overdue coursework form' and send this home to parents/guardians in an email (and include the Year Level Co-ordinators).

Notification of Assessment Task

All VCE students should be provided with at least 5 days' notice for a SAC. This can be emailed or sent to students via Compass.

Application to re-schedule a SAC or SAT due to absence

If a student has been absent from a SAC, they must have medical evidence of their absence if they are to sit this assessment. The student should collect this form from the Senior School office and negotiate a suitable time date for the rescheduled SAC or SAT. If they have assessment/s for any Year 12 subject/s, these must be done prior to leaving for a holiday.

Notification to redeem an Outcome

If a student does not achieve a 'satisfactory' result on an outcome by not demonstrating an understanding of the work, they will need to redeem this

work. Parents and guardians will be sent a 'Redemption of an Outcome' notice to encourage and support their student to complete this work.

Please note: Students are only given one opportunity to redeem each outcome. If the student does not undertake the Redemption of an Outcome on the date specified, they may achieve an N for Unsatisfactory Completion of this unit.

Locker Allocations

On the first day back, all students received their new locker allocation. In most cases, students have reused their old locks to secure their locker. However, there are a number of lockers around the school without locks. In the interests of security and safety, it is important that students secure their lockers as soon as possible. Combination locks will be available from the General Office or students are able to bring their own. I have also posted on Compass a video reminding students how to use their combination lock.

College Photos

College photos will be ordered through the Compass Portal under the Community Tab. By now parents and guardians should have received information from MSP photography. To place your order, make sure you have your Compass login details handy! If you're unsure of your login details, please contact the school for assistance. Once you've logged in, you'll need to follow a few easy steps!

Our upcoming catch up photo day will be on 9 February 2024 (Catch up day Whole School – Portrait Only).

If you have any questions regarding the photography service or packages available for purchase, please contact the MSP team on 03 9466 7331 or by email on admin.nem@mshp.com.au.

Senior School Uniform

Please assist us with the expectations regarding the school uniform (Student Dress Code) which is on pages 18-19 of the Student Planner (school diary). We communicate this to all students on the first day back.

- We remind students to remove all coloured nail polish, fake eyelashes, and facial piercings.
- The only jewellery allowed = up to 2 plain stud earrings or sleepers worn in each ear and a watch or fitness tracker on the wrist. All other visible jewellery must be removed.
- Unnatural hair colours (e.g. Bright red, green, pink, blue, purple) and/or extreme hairstyles are not permitted.

Buildings and Ground

During the summer vacation, a number of maintenance tasks were undertaken. The following is a basic list of jobs completed prior to our students coming back to school.

- All knives in the B Block Kitchens were sharpened in preparation for the 2024 school year.
- All ovens in B Block were cleaned in preparation for the 2024 school year.
- High-pressure roof gutter cleaning. As part of the annual maintenance cycle, where accessible, all roof gutters were cleaned around the school.
- Annual service of all gas appliances such as heaters and stoves including a full clean service, gas & carbon monoxide safety check.
- High-pressure underground drain flushed and cleaned to avoid any blockages or flooding for large rain events.
- Painting of the Old Gymnasium and B Block toilets.

- Basic internal maintenance including general classroom, including cleaning of whiteboards, desks, lockers and carpets.
- Basic external maintenance including tidying ground from leaves, mowing lawns and preparing seating areas.
- New synthetic grass was laid near the Hall redevelopment as a new seating area.

Drop offs, pickups and parking

In the interests of safety, please drop off or pick up our students 50 to 100 metres away from the school.

This is also a friendly reminder to make sure you avoid the 'no standing', 'permit' and 'bus zones' when dropping off or collecting our students. Also, please be mindful of where you park around the school and read the signs carefully.

In particular, do not park near or across driveways as it means homeowners find it difficult to get into or out of their driveways. This matter has been raised by numerous neighbours who do not have access to their property due to cars parked across the driveway, particularly at the start and the end of the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

Jim Ouliaris
Assisting Principal

News from the Middle School

Hello and welcome to 2024! It is lovely to see new and familiar faces as the year gets off to a great start!

We extend a special welcome to our Year 7 students who have settled in well and have already mastered the basics of using their lockers, wearing correct uniform and bringing the correct books to class - well done! Next on the horizon is the Year 7 Camp to Lake Dewar Lodge. Everyone is so excited!

Year 8 students are enjoying being back at school, finding their friends and feeling confident as they already know the ropes!

For Year 9 students, it is an important year as they start to consider their pathways with a view to being in Senior School next year!

The Middle School Co-ordinators are Nina Toal (Year 7), Jessica Wymond (Year 8) and Gabrielle Muir (Year 9). The Co-ordinators work under the guidance of Elyssia Stroumos, our Head of Middle School. We are all looking forward to working with students and helping out wherever needed! 2024 is sure to be an amazing year! Students, please feel free to come and visit us in the Middle School Office. We are located in C Block next to the PIT.

Elyssia Stroumos
Middle School Co-ordinator

Teaching and Learning News

French LOTE - Nouméa Tour

From 8-15 December 2023, 14 students from Years 10 to 12, Ms Padula, Ms Muir (Bert) and Ms Stewart undertook the Nouméa language and culture tour. Nouméa is the capital of New Caledonia, a French-speaking nation, only 3 ½ hours flying time from Melbourne. We flew with Air Calin and had a very special flight over to celebrate Air Calin's 40th birthday and the resumption of direct flights from Melbourne, complete with birthday cake! New Caledonia has similar weather to Queensland, and we were spoilt by beautiful sunshine every day! It was amazing to see the students embrace the learning experience... whether it was participating in cultural activities, playing with local children, purchasing souvenirs (the currency is the South Pacific Franc, so maths was required as well as French language skills!), ordering ice-cream, snacks or meals or making the most of the French lessons at the language school, our students made us proud! It certainly was a very successful trip - *bravo tout le monde!*



Nouméa Tour – CREIPAC

One of the most amazing aspects of language learning is being able to actually use the language in authentic communicative situations in the country where the target language is spoken. By participating in the Nouméa tour, our students were able to use the language they know for a range of purposes: ordering food, going shopping, listening to our guides, reading information at the aquarium, reading signage around the town... It was really interesting to see how the students were able to make connections between what they had learned in the classroom and how it "worked" in real life. Students were able to consolidate some grammar basics and work on speaking French simply but effectively.



The lessons at the French language school were delivered in a relaxed environment, with *Orangina* and sweet treats for morning tea, and the students were able to develop their language skills in a fun way through interactive activities and games. Students enjoyed studying in a unique tropical seaside setting, surrounded by historical buildings and overall, this experience was a great boost to their confidence when speaking French.

Gabrielle Muir (Bert)
Year 9 Co-ordinator & French Teacher



Nouméa Tour - student perspective

New Caledonia was a fantastic trip! We had so much fun exploring Nouméa and its amazing culture. We learnt lots of French and learnt about some of the history of Nouméa. We did heaps of fun activities such as going to the aquarium, going to Amédée Island, visiting a nature park/zoo, going shopping, seeing an historical cultural centre and going on a little train to see all the beautiful parts of the town.



We loved getting to know all the other girls who adventured with us. We had lots of delicious food at local restaurants and at the hotel buffet. We had lessons at a language school called "CREIPAC" where we learnt conversational skills that we used during the trip talking to locals. The school that we learnt in was beautiful with views of the spectacular seaside. Our teachers were exceptional, and we highly recommend going and cannot wait to go back!

Jemima Song and Zara Durling
Year 11

Humanities News

Australian Geography Competition

The Australian Geography Competition is a contest for Australian secondary school students, assessing their geographical knowledge and skills, mostly made up of multiple-choice questions. The competition aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence. The annual Australian Geography competition is running again this year from 15 to 29 May and students from Year 7 to Year 12 are encouraged to participate in the competition, which will run during normal Humanities class time to minimize any disruption to classes. A Compass event will be created, any interested students are invited to seek parental/guardian consent to participate in this fabulous opportunity to showcase their knowledge of Geographical concepts. The entry deadline is Tuesday 12 March, the cost is \$5 per student and certificates of participation are issued to each student.

All participants receive results and certificates (top 1% in Australia, high distinction, distinction, credit or participation). Students will be graded at school year levels – Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11, and Year 12. Outstanding students at each year level win prizes which include books and special certificates, and medals for first in Australia. In past years, Canterbury Girls' students have achieved exceptional results with many receiving High Distinctions, as well as winning their respective age categories. For Year 11 students, there is the chance to represent Australia at the 2025 International Geography Olympiad in Bangkok, Thailand. The competition ensures that students acquire world knowledge and skills that can help them to prepare for final exams. For further information, please contact your Geography teacher, or come into the C40 Humanities office to speak to Ms Odontiadis or email at tod@cgsc.vic.edu.au.

Tammy Odontiadis
Geography Teacher

Community Liaison News

The first event organised by the 2024 Community Liaison student team will be the annual International Women's Day breakfast which will take place this year on Friday 8 March at 7.30-8.30 am in the school hall. Parents, guardians, students and staff will have the opportunity to come together for a light breakfast and to hear from our guest speaker. International Women's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate women's achievements. We 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, please feel free to contact the Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Gabrielle Muir (Bert) at gbe@cgsc.vic.edu.au.

Tickets will be available soon from TryBooking, so stay tuned for more information! We thank you in advance for your support and hope to see you there.

Gabrielle Muir (Bert)
Community Liaison Co-ordinator

Welcome back for another year of music making!

Instrumental Music Enrolments for 2024

The enrolment process is continuing to be conducted through Compass Events and initial emails and reminders have now been sent out.

- Parents/guardians will need to provide consent and payment via this event before lessons can commence. Once payment and consent are made, the music staff will create the classes ASAP. Please be aware that most music teachers teach at multiple schools.
- For continuing music students, lessons will commence from this week (if payment and consent have been received.)
- Year 7 lessons will commence after Year 7 Camp either in Week 3 or 4. This depends on IMT teaching days. Lessons will begin to appear on student schedules.
- There are still places for some instruments in Year 7 and we are running demonstration in classroom music.
- Please label instruments clearly with your name and Home Group.
- For students not continuing lessons or ensembles, please decline the relevant event.

2024 Rehearsal schedule – Please note, some necessary changes have been made.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		Coda Klezmer 7.45–8.35am, BR BKE Symphonia 7.45–8.35am, C19 JFR	Year 7 Band 7.45–8.35am, BR MSW Lore 7.45–8.35am, C19 JFR		Vivace Strings 7.45–8.35am KDI
Lunch	Flute Ensemble BKE		Theory JFR	String Quartet C23, AOP	Acoustic Guitar Ensemble P10, DSE
PM	Shades of Blue 3.15–4.30pm MSW	Wind Symphony 3.15–4.45pm, BR MSW Cantabile 3.15–4.15pm, C19 AOP	Cantabella 3.15–4.45pm, PAC SBT	Encore 3.15–4.30pm PAC, AOP Dolce' Strings 3.15–4.30, C19 KDI	Senior Guitar Ensemble 3.15 – 4.15pm, P10 DSE

Cantabella Workshop

On Wednesday 31 January, the day before all students started back at CGSC, our award-winning auditioned choir Cantabella, led by Sharon Batterham, participated in an intense one-day workshop focusing on new repertoire for 2024. The rehearsal day is invaluable for the preparation of the choir for another year as they plan to perform at Chorals, VSMF, Royal South Street and more.

Cantabella Auditions

Auditions will be held for Cantabella next Wednesday 14 Feb during Period 6. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the entrance to the Music Block.

Looking forward to a music-filled year!

Michael Sword
Head of Music

Term Dates

Term 1

8 March	International Women's' Day Breakfast, String Quartet
12 March	Soiree #1 PAC 6.30pm
13 March	Year 7 Band, first rehearsal, 7.45am
15 March	Vivace Strings, first rehearsal, 7.45am
20 March	VCE Music Top Class excursion, Melbourne Recital Centre
25 March	Chorals Technical rehearsal
27 March	Victorian Sports Awards MCG, String Quartet
26–28 Mar	House Chorals Festival



from the archives



Canterbury Girls'
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Images of the construction process of the new C Block

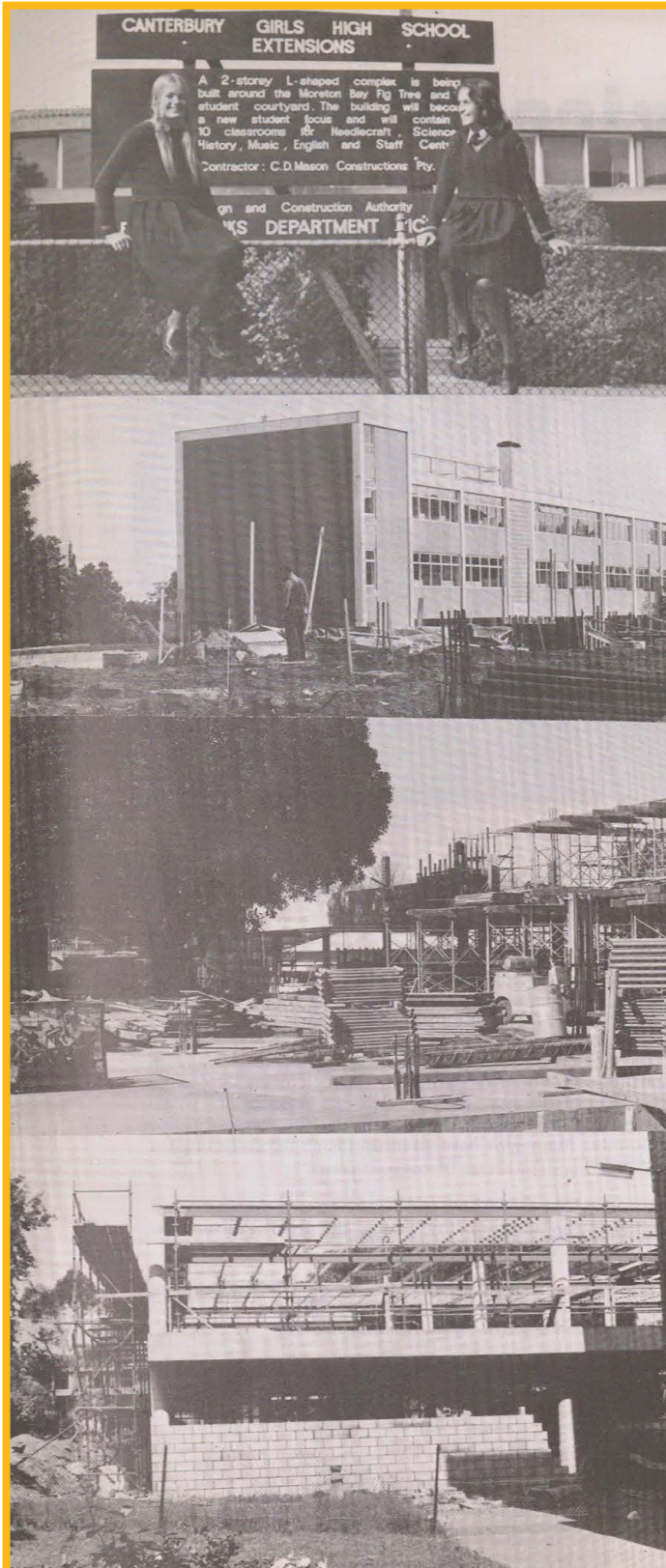


Image from *The Mangarrian* 1978

School Working Bees

Working Bees give every family the opportunity to assist in the improvement of the school grounds and buildings for our students. We hope that all parents and carers will take their turn because all our children benefit from the result and there are tasks to suit all levels of skill.

If you would like to help at a working bee session, register [here](#).

If you are unable to help at working bees this year, but would like to make a donation of \$50.00 to assist in buildings and grounds maintenance, contact the General Office at (03) 9830 5099.

Working Bee dates for 2024

16 March	Working bee #1 9:00am - 12.00pm
18 May	Working bee #2 9:00am - 12.00pm
17 August	Working bee #3 9:00am - 12.00pm

Uniform Shop

New – Softshell Jackets

The Uniform Shop has recently added softshell jackets to the sports uniform range. These jackets are replacing the current shower proof jackets. Softshell jackets are \$110.00 each and can be purchased online or in store on Tuesdays.

All profit from the Uniform Shop goes back into the school for the benefit of the school community. The Uniform Shop is open on Tuesdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. We encourage students to visit the Uniform Shop during recess and lunch times. Card only, sorry no cash or cheques.

Elena Mantelos
Uniform Shop Manager

Address

19A Wentworth Avenue, Canterbury 3126
03 9831 8661
uniform@cgsc.vic.edu.au

Online Ordering

<https://myschoolconnect.com.au/cgscuniform>

Canteen News

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

Now that we are open properly, the Canteen team wanted to remind you all that you are still able to order online through [Myschool Connect](#) and at the canteen for the day until end of term. Any special dietary requirements, please advise.

Hope to see you all soon.
Thank you!

The Canteen Team

