

I am finding this term quite an emotional roller coaster. It's been very nostalgic, as I listen to and watch our Year 13's, many of them battling with the confusion of where to go and what to do next year. They have applications to fill in, references to write and many life choices to make.

I still remember their first day at St Margaret's. I have had the privileged opportunity of having watched these little girls grow into incredible young women. It is a time to recall the memories of the little girl fears and anxieties about starting a new school and coming boarding, and compare them with now; having seen their confidence and maturity grow as they prepare to embark on another of life's journeys.

I think every term is action packed, and this one has been no exception. The celebration of the Boarders Birthday Dinner was a fantastic evening. Thank you to Paula and our wonderful catering team for adding lovely little personal touches to this dinner and making it special for the girls.

To celebrate International week we had our annual International dinner. Every year the costumes become more colourful as our girls excitedly display their creativity. Competition is always fierce when Philly Sutton gets the opportunity to fancy dress.

Our year 13's have continued with their community based support work this term and have prepared fabulous roast meals for the residents at Daffodil House and Christchurch City Mission. This has been a wonderfully rewarding project for the girls and they have been generous with their time and effort. This has been greatly appreciated by the agencies we have supported. Still a couple of projects in the pipeline before the girls finish this year.

The term started for our Year 11's with their Semi formal, a wonderful night with the girls all looking stunning. The social time continued with many reciprocated invitations.

Study leave for the seniors went smoothly with the girls settling well into their study routines. A timely reminder of how very close the end of year exams are. Amidst this and all the other happenings, however, the boarders still managed to fill a bus to both the Netball Supernet final and the Hockey Press Cup final. Wonderful to have our girls their offering their support on mass.

Dinner swaps with Christ's College for the Year 9's and 10's can be a little awkward, often being asked to sit boy-girl for the dinner. After a few minutes, however, the tension eases and the conversation comes easily. Normally they are reluctant to end these occasions. To add a little more social time to this we are starting Dinner and movie swaps. When the boys come here next week we will be playing a classic "chick flick" for them and next term the girls will watch no doubt some action classic when we visit Christ's College.

Our delightful Year 8's hosted the Selwyn House and Medbury College Year 7 & 8's on August 20th for Netball, dinner and a movie. Rebecca Bush organised this very successful evening. Definitely one to make an annual event.

The weekend entertainment this term has been a great mix. Janelle has arranged many craft and pizza nights, dinners out, bowling, shopping, tram rides, and ice creams in the gardens on sunny afternoons. The final weekend outing this term will be the horse trek at the Waimakariri River, great fun. Check out our Facebook page to see what the girls have been up to. We keep this regularly updated.

Philly has taken groups up to Mt Hutt a couple of times this term. They have enjoyed some variable weather but managed to get some successful skiing in all the same. For a complete change of scene Philly also accompanied a group to the Isaac Theatre Royal to attend the ballet, 'A Mid Summer's Night Dream.' It is wonderful to see this historical Christchurch theatre restored to its former glory.

There is a Boarder Parent Committee meeting scheduled for the last day of this term. This committee meets term one and three to discuss ways we can work together to enhance the boarding experience for our girls' families. This is a great opportunity to meet other boarder parents. Some of our year nine parents have been very pro active in planning some social gatherings.

Another very busy, eventful and always fun time in boarding. How very quickly the terms are flying by. The office is buzzing with voices and laughter. I am surrounded by happy girls. This is my version of a great day.

Nicky Langley

Director Of Boarding

