



**Manukau**  
Christian School

# High School Update

May 2018

## Welcome Back

### Dear Parents

Welcome to term 2! We are delighted to welcome Perez Parkes to the high school, and similarly delighted to welcome Chetna Singh back.

Term 2 is always a busy term as students begin to think about mid-year examinations and prepare for these. All dates of exams and assignments are posted on the Engrade calendar, and we encourage students to take note of these and set up a weekly study roster so that they have time to cover the concepts taught in all subjects in the first two terms with time to spare.

These exams, along with the end of year exams and test marks, determine what 'graduation certificate' a pupil receives at the end of the year. Graduation certificates are awarded in three categories: Achievement, Merit and Excellence. There are slightly different criteria for the different year levels. Here they are:

	Year 9	Year 10-13
<b>Achievement</b>	- 50% or higher in at least five subjects - Must include Bible	- 50% or higher in at least four subjects - Must include Bible
<b>Merit</b>	- 60% or higher in at least six subjects - Must include Bible	- 60% or higher in at least four subjects - Must include Bible
<b>Excellence</b>	- 75% or higher in all subjects	- 75% or higher in five subjects

## Teenagers and Tech

We live in the age of technology. Thirty years ago, few would have ever imagined holding in their hands something with the power and versatility of the modern smart phone. Yet here we are; smart phones are ubiquitous, not just toys for the rich. And while no one can deny the benefits that technology has brought to us, we should also consider the dangers, particularly the dangers to our youth. This is something that our culture has not done particularly well. We have embraced technology and given it to our children unquestioningly. Perhaps we need to consider carefully some of the consequences.

There has been an explosion of mental health issues in the last decade amongst our youth. And more and more frequently we are seeing research come out that ties social media use to some of these issues, particularly depression. It's not hard to see why. Social media accounts are the 'highlight' reel from a person's life. They are designed to impress and create envy. When we look at the beautiful trips and exciting events in another's life, it is easy to become discontented and feel that our life is pretty ordinary in comparison. This can lead to negative feelings.



In the September 2017 issue of *The Atlantic* an article appeared tying teenage cell phone use to rising rates of youth suicide. Fascinating insights from this article include the following:

*The more time teens spend looking at screens,  
the more likely they are to report symptoms of depression.*

and

*Teens who spend three hours a day or more on electronic devices  
are 35 percent more likely to have a risk factor for suicide,  
such as making a suicide plan.*

But depression is certainly not the only danger related to unconstrained technology use by teenagers. Pornography viewing is reaching epidemic proportions among our youth. According to a 2017 Australian study, the median age of first pornography viewing was 13 years for males, and 85% of male youths studied are accessing pornography on a weekly basis. How is this possible? Because our teenagers have unfettered access to the internet in the form of smart phones and portable technology which they can use in their bedrooms and outside of an adult presence.

We encourage you to chat with your child about technology and place boundaries on its use in your household. **Here are some suggestions as to how you can protect your teenager:**

1. Model wise use of technology yourself
2. Consider whether your teenager actually **needs** a cell phone

3. If they do need a cell phone (for instance so you can contact them, and they you), make it a 'dumb-phone'. Your teenager does not need unfettered access to the internet
4. No technology (iPads, laptops, phones) in bedrooms
5. Phones in a bucket from 9:00 each night
6. No phones at the dinner table – this is a time to talk as a family
7. Allow access of internet from only one place, ideally a centrally placed computer or laptop where anyone walking past can see it
8. Delay the use of social media applications such as Instagram and Facebook. What purpose does it serve? There are plenty of more healthy ways to relax and socialise
9. Ensure you are informed of and monitoring all social media applications they use
10. Ensure the internet is used for a specific purpose, for a specific time period, not just surfing.

While some of these suggestions may seem old-fashioned or hard to implement, we think they are a good starting point. Even implementing some of them will help you protect your teenager, and at least get you talking about some of these issues with them.

In our next newsletter we will give you some suggestions as to how your family can replace screen time with more relational, useful and creative activities.



## The Difference an Independent Christian Education Makes

Late in 2017 we had several visits from a woman planning to train as a teacher. She wanted to get an idea of what a Christian independent school looked like. She also visited a high school in a wealthy part of Auckland with modern buildings designed by award-winning architects, where traditional style classrooms have been done away with. I asked her for a comment regarding her experiences at both schools. Here are her comments.

### At a Modern State School

*The students were seated in groups of 5 to 6 and discussed past NCEA questions. Now there was another group of students who were seated on the other side of the common area which had only a white board in the middle as a partition. This other group was making so much noise.....constantly disturbing the biology session. It bothered me that the teacher did not step out and ask them to maintain silence so that the biology students could focus on their session. Instead the teacher just informed the biology students that next time they should pick a different common area.*

*Some students were not even seated facing the teacher...Only a few participated ...with one student even having earphones plugged in which was not noticed or simply ignored by the teacher. Some students just left the class half way without asking to be excused.*

### Regarding Manukau Christian School

*Although MCS is a small private school with basic facilities and lower roll numbers, it has some remarkable features which the state schools don't have and that make MCS stand out. The students at MCS benefit from intensive teaching of a high standard curriculum which is seasoned every day with the word of God. The school has set high standards for the students, teachers and parents. Teachers expect good and proper behaviour from the students. Discipline and character building are part of everyday activity at MCS. When these students become the future generation, they will indeed shine for Christ because they are the products of a school whose mission is to pursue excellence for Christ. Children need the foundation it takes to keep them standing firm through life's storm. And I believe MCS will lay that strong foundation for life.*



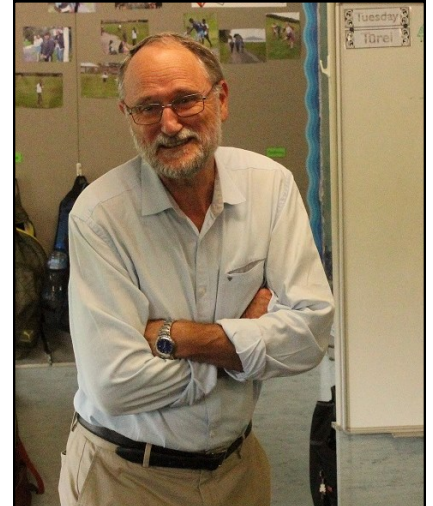


## Term 1 Module

When I first heard that the year 10, 11 and 12's were going to be learning about Islam for modules, I was very excited.

Our teacher Mr. Flinn took us through an interesting journey for 4 weeks, where we were assigned to read a chapter from the Quran. We were also given a small book 'Understanding Islam', a pocket guide, which we went through each week. Both Christianity and Islam are monotheistic religions, and Islam is very topical.

Esha Kumar



## Roger

In term 2, the senior students have had a friendly, feathered visitor. A chicken! Despite being a female of the species, one of the pupils named her Roger and it stuck.

Roger has been terrorising classrooms, leaving a trail of 'fowl' little presents along the deck and prompting premature greying among teachers. However, she has had her fair share of difficulties at MCS. From being forced into cannibalism to performing summersaults down the stairs after being shooed by Mr K during a maths lesson, Roger has faced some hardship. Roger even got a taste of real flying after being tossed back over the fence by Mr Papesch, only to reappear on school grounds later that same day. Nevertheless she has proven to be a chicken hungry for knowledge. She has insisted on joining in on Psychology and French lessons in the common room. Even a barrier erected by Mr Kennedy could not keep her out!



Overall, despite proving to be a nuisance at times, Roger has been a rather entertaining addition to the MCS family.

*Mae Savill*

## Visiting the School



During school hours, all visitors to the school, **including parents**, need to sign in at the office please. This is a health and safety requirement, and helps ensure the safety of our pupils. If you wish to see your child during the day, please ensure you stop by the office first. Pupils leaving early must also be signed out at the office.

## P.E. Skills

Mr Jones has been teaching passing, catching and tackling skills in PE.



**Highlight Subject: IGCSE Economics**

This year some of our Year 10's and 11's are taking Economics. IGCSE Economics is a fascinating subject where students have the opportunity to examine the core principles and functions of our economic world. Not only is this a new and different subject for most students, it is also a great opportunity for them to consider how money should be best used and what role it should have in our society from a Christian perspective.

It is often easy to see the world of economics as being relatively straightforward and even a bit dull, but our study of the subject shows it to be far more interesting and complex than that! In the past term we have covered key concepts such as the economic problem, the allocation of resources and the role of the individual in economics. This term will see us digging deeper into what firms are all about, as well as the role of government in an economy.





# Quiz Night

The Quiz night went really well. We had an amazing turnout of around 100 people. There were laughs, trick questions, outrageous bids and delicious cakes. In the end we managed to raise \$3,357. A huge thank you to the sponsors, bakers, helpers and donors who helped to make the night a success.

**Rebekah Shallard**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:





## Sharing Your Faith and Engaging with Culture



*Katherine Young in Sudan*

This term for our Modules sessions, the year nines and tens have had the privilege of being taught by Mrs Camp. Taking time out of her personal timetable, Mrs Camp has come to our classroom to teach us how to share our faith with others and how to build our confidence. Mrs Camp based her teaching upon this motto: “Prayer, Care, Share.” Using this, Mrs Camp explored ways we can pray for others, show that we care about them by being good friends, and share with them the truth of the gospel. We have learned about amazing people who have lived and even died for their faith, such as Nabeel Qureshi. We even had a visit from Katherine Young, a past student of MCS and a missionary in South Sudan. These modules have been extremely interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. We are all very thankful to Mrs Camp.

**Mehekpreet Kaur**



*Mrs Camp teaching the Module session*

## Parent Evening—Wednesday 20 June 7.00pm



We would like to invite parents of **Year 7 and 8 students** to an information evening about our high school on Wednesday 20 June 2018. It will be an opportunity for you to gain the information you need to decide whether MCS high school is suitable for your child. You will learn about subjects offered, our points of difference, and what you can expect if you send your child to our high school. The meeting will be held in Room 209 from 7:00-8:00pm. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided.

A parent from our school will be interviewed and will share her experiences teaching and observing teaching in public high schools and at MCS .

