

Secondary Newsletter

Tēnā koutou whānau, parents and caregivers,

Coming now to the end of a full and vibrant Term 1, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you—our parents, caregivers, and wider community—for your ongoing partnership with us. There has been a genuine sense of joy and positive energy across the school, and we are so grateful for the way our community contributes to the life and learning here at Bethlehem College Secondary.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share some staffing updates. We are thankful to have Mr Brendan Wilson as Acting Assistant Head of Secondary (Y 7–9) while Mr Mike Thompson is on sabbatical leave. Additionally, we warmly welcome Mrs Emma Talbot as Assistant Head of Secondary for Teaching & Learning (Y 10–13). Both bring a heart for students and a depth of experience to their roles, and I trust you will join me in welcoming them as they become an integral part of our leadership team.

As we enter the Easter season, we reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53 describes a suffering servant—who was “pierced for our wrongdoing” and “crushed because of our brokenness.” This prophecy points to Christ, who took on death that we might live and have hope beyond the grave. *His resurrection changes everything*. Because He lives, those who trust in Him have the promise of eternal life and unbreakable communion with God. This is the good news we remember, proclaim, and share with our students and community. It's a time to lift our eyes to the cross and the empty tomb and to celebrate the victory of our risen Lord.

We wish our BC families a blessed Easter, and a well-deserved holiday break. We look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday, 29th April.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Christopher Niles
Head of Secondary



FAITH

Easter is a time where bunnies, chocolate, and crosses collide. For the serious seeker there is no doubt about the historical Jesus, his death, and resurrection. This reality brought to fulfilment the promise of hope from the time that God called Abram to lead a called people – dedicated to living the way we are made to live. What about *why* he is so significant? Why have so many people been deeply influenced by encounters with Jesus?

Consider Saul. Here is a person who was totally committed to opposing followers of Jesus and throwing them into jail. On his way to Damascus, he had an experience that changed his direction, an encounter with Jesus where he then became the best-known leader of the Christian faith: Paul. The change for Paul was the impact of Jesus. What Jesus did in Paul's life has been repeated in millions of lives over the last two thousand years. The effect of that first Easter is still being seen and felt across the globe. This is a time to stop and recall what makes Jesus such a game changer.

TERM 1 | 2025
ISSUE 5

KEY DATES

First Day Term 2
29 Apr Y0-13

Poppy Sales
29 Apr – 2 May

Cross Country
7 May Y7-13

Tertiary Awareness Day
9 May Y12/13

BC Business Networking
12 May 4pm (BC Staffroom)



QUICK LINKS

[ENROLLED FAMILIES](#)

[SCHOOLBRIDGE](#) | [BC CALENDAR](#)

[STUDENT DAILY NOTICES](#)

CONNECT WITH BC



PARENTS CORNER

'The Common Touch' is the incredible story of Christchurch Boys High Head Boy Jake Bailey, who was diagnosed with cancer just days before his final graduation. Told without treatment that he would only have 3 weeks to live, Jake delivered a speech that went viral, touched the hearts of millions around the world, and changed his life forever.

Watch [here](#).

BC BALL

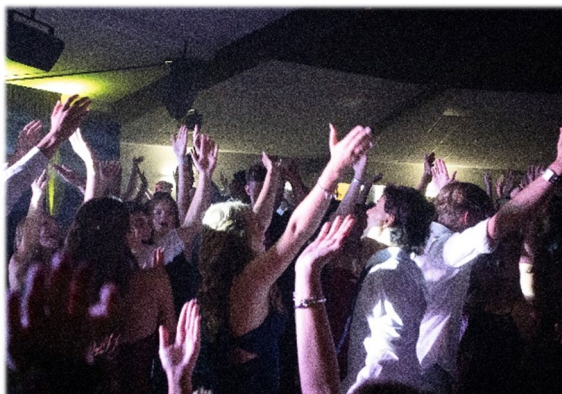
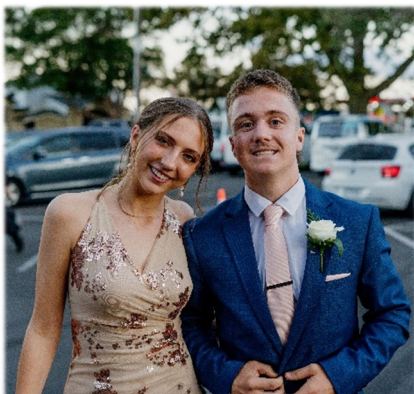
OLD HOLLYWOOD GLAM – 2025 BALL

This year's highly anticipated ball was a true showcase of creativity and flair! The theme, "Old Hollywood Glam," brought together classic styles, dazzling outfits, and star-studded prams that left everyone in awe.

The venue, decorated with shimmering sequins and faux fur, exuded the elegance and sophistication of Hollywood's heyday. The sparkling dresses and smart suits made the event feel like a scene straight out of a classic film. It wasn't just a parade; it was a celebration by students and teachers of style, imagination, and a whole lot of fun!

The highlight of the event was the ball voting. Categories like "Best Male and Female Costume Design" and "Best Leading Actress and Actor" kept the atmosphere lively and full of friendly competition. In the end, everyone left with a smile after dancing the night away.

Thank you to Mrs Freeman, participants, volunteers, organizers, Sophia Greenwood and Ben Fowler and the whole ball committee who made this unforgettable event a shining success. It truly was an evening to remember — lights, camera, action!



ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL

40 of our Senior Secondary International students recently spent three exciting days at Totara Springs Camp. Throughout their time there, students participated in a variety of Kiwi camp activities including abseiling, rock climbing, archery, and hydro sliding. One of the most memorable moments for many was gathering around a bonfire, toasting marshmallows, and singing songs together under the stars. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to strengthen friendships and create lasting memories.



NATIONAL JAZZ FEST – BIG BAND 1

Big Band 1 competed at the National Youth Jazz Festival on Wednesday, along with 35 other schools from around NZ. The standard of competition was exceptionally high, and we were delighted to come away with a silver award. Congratulations to Arthur Thompson, who was selected to perform in the National Youth Jazz Festival Big Band before the awards ceremony. This is a great achievement for Arthur, as he played alongside some of the best student jazz musicians in the country. Thank you to Mr Taylor, Mr Crump and Mrs Hayward for their hard work preparing us for the competition.



SOUND COLLECTIVE

Our allcomers choir, BC Sound Collective, have just enjoyed a 2-day workshop as part of their preparation for the upcoming Big Sing national competition. It was a full 2 days of singing – learning their repertoire and refining their sound, under the careful guidance of Mrs Blake. With 49 students in the choir, they are making a big sound! Thanks to Bethlehem Baptist Church for hosting us and the use of your great facilities.



BC DEBATE



We had a record number of students at the NZSDC BOP Tournament with 6 teams and 10 first-time debaters!

SUBJECTS

GEOGRAPHY

The Year 12 Geography class recently took an overnight trip to Mt Ruapehu as part of our large natural landscape studies. We first put in the hard mahi by collecting data on vegetation and climate conditions at three different altitudes moving up Mt. Ruapehu. The following morning, we woke up early to watch the sunrise and began the day with karakia. Perhaps the best part of the trip was the Taranaki Falls track, where we observed and could identify the unique alpine scrublands and large andesite lava flows. While we have been learning about the Tongariro Volcanic Centre in class, exploring the site in person gave us knowledge and memories to enjoy for years.



TEXTILES

The Year 9 Textile Technology class started this year with a service project making scrunchies and tote bags. These items will be taken as gifts and handed out to children on the various mission trips that BC is going on this year. Destinations include Fiji, Samoa, and the Solomon Islands. Pictured here are some of the lovely students who have contributed sewn items that will be handed out.

'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms' (1 Peter 4:10).



SPORTS

MAADI

Congratulations to our BC Rowers Tobias Werahiko, Roi Shim, Emily Keith, Francesca Romersa, Lily Cameron, Jaime de Vantier and Nachalah Smith who recently competed in the weeklong Maadi Rowing Championships. Special mention to Lily and Francesca who came 6th in NZ for U15 Girls Double Sculls and Jaime and Nachalah for placing 16th in NZ for Girls U18 Novice Double Sculls. Well done to all the rowers for their tremendous effort!



FLIPPA BALL

Congratulations to our BC Flippa Ball community on being awarded Water Polo New Zealand's Flippa Ball School of the Year 2024. This is fantastic recognition of the growth in the sport here at BC and the hours of dedication by our coaches, managers, and parents, as well as our outstanding servant-hearted senior water polo players, who volunteered to coach Flippa Ball teams taking trainings and games every week throughout the seasons.



ATHLETICS

Great results at the BOP Waikato Athletics champs for BC!

Eleanor Pugh	1st Senior Girls 3000m (new event record) and 1st 1500m
Corban Holmes	1st Senior Boys 3000m
Alexsei Ferin-Thomas	3rd Intermediate Boys 3000m
Ingrid Stripling	3rd Intermediate Girls 200m and 4th 100m
Alasia Uy	5th Junior Girls 80m Hurdles



GENERAL NOTICES

ORDER YOUR SCHOOL PHOTOS

Don't forget to order your photos by midnight Sunday 13th April for free delivery to school in Term 2. Check your email inbox for the Photolife ordering details sent out on 31st of March. Any queries, please contact Photolife at enquiries@photolife.co.nz.

WINTER UNIFORMS

Due to Easter/Anzac falling over the school holidays, the Uniform Shop will only be open on Mon 14th to Thu 17th April from 10 am – 4 pm by appointment and closed from Fri 18th reopening on Mon 28th April. Make an appointment or view information [here](#).

ANZAC POPPIES

Student leaders will be selling ANZAC Poppies on campus during the first week of Term 2. Help us sell 1,000 poppies by bringing a gold coin and wearing your poppy to the ANZAC assembly on Fri 2 May. All proceeds go to the RSA to help NZ veterans.

YOUNG DRIVER WORKSHOP

FREE workshop on Wed 16 Apr at Papamoa Sports & Recreation Centre and Thu 17 Apr at Te Wharekura o Mauao. Each workshop includes driver behaviour, 60-minute driving lesson and Waka Kotahi NZTA skills. travelsafeschools@tauranga.govt.nz

MUFTI DAY DONATIONS

Well done to Secondary students raising \$1,559.00 at Mufti Day for Open Doors, who serve persecuted Christians worldwide.

EASTER IN TAURANGA

Check out [allevents](#) to find out more about family friendly events like Easter Journey and more!

CAREER PATHWAYS

There are lots of opportunities coming up for students in Term 2. Check out the online Careers Hub for more information. Click on the 'Posts' tab at the top to sign up for workshops, trips and more. <https://beth.careerwise.school/>

