



ST THOMAS of CANTERBURY COLLEGE

Dear Parent/Guardian

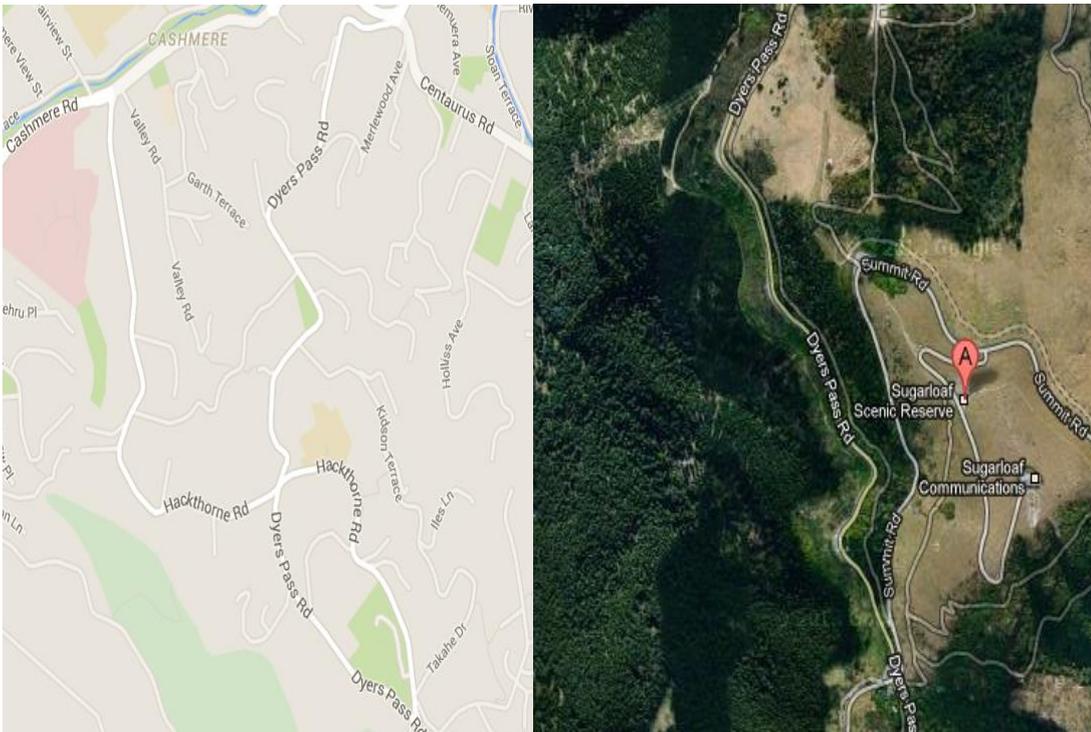
As you are aware, your son is currently taking part in a year 10 Boys programme called “*The Rite Journey*”. The RITE Journey involves several ceremonies over the year focusing on the transition from boyhood to manhood.

The Rite Journey has been created to complement your role as parents and carers in guiding your child into young adulthood. Young people yearn to prove that they are adults. Most traditional cultures have a carefully crafted process guided by elders that provide this experience. In the absence of this, adolescents often take it upon themselves to create their own rites of passage, for example drink driving, drugs and alcohol.

Learning to be an adult, male or female in any society typically involves guidance, mentoring and a great many conversations. However, in our society today we very often see young people turning to peers, the media and the internet to source this knowledge and guidance. There has been a loss of human-connection and nurturing as screens dominate adolescents’ lives in our technologically saturated world. During *The Rite Journey*, students will have numerous conversations around what it is to be a respectful and responsible man or woman in our society. As your child journeys through the year, we hope that the discussions they are having at school may also stimulate conversation in your own homes.

On **Wednesday 20th of March** we will begin our first two ceremonies with the boys, which directly involve you as their parents/ caregivers.

The first ceremony of the “The Rite Journey’ is called the “**Calling**”. (The calling is where we as your son’s Teachers *call* the boys to begin their journey; it also involves an acknowledgement of the end of their childhood and a show of gratitude to those who have influenced them through childhood.) This will take place at **Sugarloaf scenic reserve (A) (meet in the car park) on the Port Hills at 7:10am on March the 20th to watch the Sun Rise at 7:31am**. It is hugely important that you as Parents/ Caregivers attend this Ceremony with your son’s. I realise many of you work and have other children, but finding the time will be hugely beneficial for your sons Journey to Manhood. If you as their Parents can’t be there we would encourage a significant person in their lives, (Step Father/ Mother, Grandfather/mother, Uncle/Aunty, Coach, etc.) to attend. If it is raining however, this is postponed until further notice. Boys will come to school as normal.



Meet at point (A) at 7:00am (NOTE SUMMIT ROAD FROM SUMNER IS CLOSED)LOOK FOR SIGN ALONG SUMMIT ROAD FROM DYERS PASS ROAD- (There will be a teacher on the corner of dyers Pass and Summit road waving you in the right direction)

Following the “Calling” everybody is invited back to a shared breakfast at school in the Hall. This is a time where we ask you as parents to bring a few items that had significant importance to your son’s childhood (a teddy bear, snuggle rug, book, painting etc.) This part of the Journey is called the ‘Departure’ in which you give the teachers of your son the right to guide and help your son through the journey and also share with your son the items of significance, which places them in the right direction. This is a special time between you and your grandson/son in which he will deliver you a very heartfelt letter which portrays what you mean to him.

This will all be completed by around 9-9:30am.

Other Important Rite Journey Information for 2019

- Later on in the year the boys will attend a camp from November at the Boyle River, the camp supplies most of the gear if you don’t have appropriate camping gear. During the camp the boys will complete a 24 hour solo which is the major challenge for many of the young men.
- This money will also involve two other days out this year for events that we run
- Disconnect to reconnect – next few weeks
- Challenge Day Term 3
- Father/Son/ Mentor Breakfast TBC
- Day Run- Charity Fun Run
- School Prize giving during term 4 the boys will receive their senior ties
- The Closing-Term 4
- The cost for this entire course (including camp) is \$460

You will receive Information during the year outling in detail these activities, the camp is an incredible experience the young men will never forget.

I look forward to seeing you all during the “calling” and hopefully seeing another beautiful Christchurch sunrise. IF IT IS HEAVY RAIN THE EVENT WILL BE POSTPONED- IF UNSURE PLEASE CHECK THE SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Any questions or problems please feel free to ring or email one of the Rite Journey Teachers.

Marlow

Jacob Allen

jallen@stc.school.nz

McClintock

Tom Tennent

ttennent@stc.school.nz

Joyce

Kieran Coll

kcoll@stc.school.nz

Rice

Paul Burton

pburton@stc.school.nz