

2024 PASTORAL TEAM



Mr Aaron Everett, Deputy Principal

Kia Ora koutou. I am excited to be Deputy Principal at Columba College. I have been in education since 2000. I am originally a Biology teacher with a Masters in Microbiology, but have enjoyed the challenge of teaching Chemistry at Columba for the past 5 years. I am passionate about working with staff, students and whanau to achieve the best educational outcomes for our students. Outside of school, I have a keen interest in Cricket and Rugby and weekends are spent on the sidelines supporting my daughter and son at their chosen sports. I also enjoy scouring the second hand shops and auctions for 70s and 80s Rock LPs.



Ms Julie Armstrong, Assistant Principal – Pastoral

As the Assistant Principal of Pastoral, I am proud to lead a team of talented and experienced deans, chaplains, counsellors and support staff. Together, we are dedicated to fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for our students. I am also excited to be teaching Level 2 and 3 Chemistry as well as leading the Year 7-10, Middle School.



Rev. Andrew Barlow, Chaplain

Tēnā Koutou. I am an ordained Anglican Priest/Minister with *Clinical Pastoral Education* training. I am one of two new Chaplains appointed this year. Seven years of ministry among tertiary students and five years of parish ministry has given me some wide pastoral experience. I am available to meet with students for pastoral or spiritual care. If more specialist care is required, then the Chaplains will refer students onto the Guidance Counsellor. We hope to extend the chaplaincy presence into the Junior School this year.



Mrs Kim Park, Chaplain

Kia Ora koutou. My name is Kimberly Park. I am originally from Napier but came down as a student to study at Otago University and never left. I am married to Greg (who is a detective in the New Zealand Police) and I have four grown daughters – yes we love girls! I have served in a large Dunedin church for many years in a multiplicity of roles including eldership, worship coordination, small groups, pastoral care and community outreach. I am currently studying towards a Graduate Diploma in Theology and completing a Chaplaincy qualification. My teaching background has been in Physical

Education, Health and Wellbeing so I am really looking forward to incorporating a spiritual dimension into the wellbeing space and excited to be part of the Chaplaincy team at Columba College.



Mrs Ada Crowe, Guidance Counsellor

I am very much looking forward to being part of the Columba College pastoral team and school community. My main life focus has been health and wellbeing which has given me a really good foundation for my work. For many years, initially as a teacher, then as a School Guidance Counsellor I have worked with young people, their families, school staff and the wider community.

Over these years there have been many changes both within society and education. I fully appreciate that young people today navigate a very different world to the one I grew up in. They keep me informed and keep me young. I enjoy their differences and diversity. I really enjoy and value the role of School Guidance Counsellors. Working as a counsellor I assist and support students and their families with a wide range of issues which affect their health and wellbeing. I often marvel at students' resilience and maturity when faced with at times quite complex situations.

I have been quite an active member of my professional association The New Zealand Association of Counsellors of which I am a Life Member.

I am a parent and grandparent and keep myself busy outside of work hours with quite a large garden, going for walks, movies and socialising with family and friends.



Mrs Kylie Bicknell, Public Health Nurse

Kia Ora. I am a Public Health Nurse for Te Whatu Ora. I specialise in youth health, with a focus on wellbeing, prevention, and positive health outcomes. I have recently moved to Dunedin from South Canterbury with my husband and two children. We are enjoying getting to know Dunedin better and exploring your beautiful city. I will be available Tuesday for appointments and run a walk-in Health Clinic at lunchtime. I am looking forward to working with the staff and students.



Mrs Julie Elliott, Assistant Principal, Boarding and International Students

For the past 25 years I have worked with secondary aged students in a variety of capacities. I have taught English in South Korea and Vietnam, I worked for Students Against Dangerous Driving for 13 years, 10 of those as National Manager, and I managed Community College Otago before coming to Columba in term 4, 2022. I really enjoy working with this age group and I have the pleasure of leading our international and boarding teams to best support these students at Columba College.



Mrs Suzie Dixon, Student Learning Coordinator

I have been teaching Art Design at Columba for 9 years and I have been the Learning Support Coordinator for the last 3 of those.

I am incredibly passionate about students, their wellbeing, their confidence and ability to learn and implementing strategies to help them communicate their learning.

I aim to empower students to be able to advocate for their own learning by understanding their strengths and weaknesses whilst at the same time ensuring staff have the tools to differentiate in the classroom.

I love to spend time with my family including my Siberian Husky 'Mocha' and creating art and design.



Mrs Jane Pollard, Junior School Dean

Kia ora koutou katoa. Over the last decade, I have had the privilege of being a part of the Columba College Community. During this time, I've been dedicated to extending my knowledge and inspiring students in the Junior School to discover fun and curiosity in their learning journey. Holding various leadership roles, one of which was as the 'Digitech' teacher, I've been entrusted with delivering digital technology skills to students ranging from year 0 to 6. This role has been a true passion of mine, as technology is continually evolving, and I firmly believe that with strong problem-solving skills and creativity, students and staff can embrace new approaches to learning with open minds.

I am incredibly excited about my next venture as Junior School Dean and am wholeheartedly committed to supporting kaiako (teachers), akonga (students), and whānau on their educational journey.

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.

With your basket and my basket, the people will thrive.



Ms Chantal Hillier, Year 7 Dean

Kia ora koutou. I am the Year 7 Dean and HOD of Biology. Having taught for the last 9 years at Columba College I have had the pleasure of teaching all age levels in the Middle and Senior Schools, and have taught specialist classes in Science, Biology, Physics and Computer Science.

In my spare time, I am found in the garden, with friends and family, reading a good book or planning my next holiday adventure.

I'm looking forward to a great year at the College working with our two highly skilled Form Teachers Mrs Mably and Mrs Casbolt a fantastic group of incoming Year 7 students.

**Ms Sally Graves, Year 8 Dean**

I have taught a range of subjects at Columba College in the 14 years since I started and this year I am teaching English to both Year 8 classes. I have been a dean previously and held various management roles. Two of my children have attended Columba and so I also have a parent's perspective on school matters. I am looking forward to working closely with the two year 8 form teachers as well as the rest of the pastoral team.

**Mrs Angela Bishop, Year 9 Dean**

I have been teaching PE, Science and Health at Columba for 12 Years (It has gone very quickly). I really enjoy working with the Columba students and have been a Dean in the past. Outside of Columba, I love getting outdoors (especially running) and am kept busy with a 4-Year-old son who is starting at the Columba Junior School this year.

**Mrs Christie Sinclair, Year 10 Dean**

Kia ora. I am the HOD of Physical Education and also teach Health and Mathematics. I have been teaching for over 20 years and have been a dean for at least half of that time. I have been involved in a range of extracurricular activities at Columba which has helped me to get to know a range of students outside of the classroom. I enjoy being active, baking, being outside and doing things with my family and friends. I look forward to working with our Year 10 students and their families.

**Ms Teresa Andrew, Year 11 Dean and Maori Pasifika Dean**

Kia ora. I'm a Visual Art and Social Studies teacher. I have been teaching for over 20 years and have been a dean for 10 across the middle and senior schools. I have a background in Fine Arts and have also spent years doing design work in a theatre setting.

My passion at school apart from the Arts is Kapa Haka and being involved in the many interests of the ākonga at school.

**Ms Rebecca Gemmill – Year 12 Dean**

I have been at Columba since 2020 but taught here many years ago when my own children were young. I am passionate about Mathematics and have responsibility as the Year 12 Dean, the timetable and Education Outside the Classroom.

My first experiences at Columba College was as a student and I am very proud of our school. I love getting out with my family, camping in the holidays and spending time in the garden.

**Ms Kath Evans – Year 13 Dean**

Kia ora and Boreda! I grew up in Wales, studied History at University College, Oxford, and worked for some years in London in the corporate world. After a wonderful move to Aotearoa, I shifted direction and went back to my love of History and Literature by completing a teaching degree. I have been at Columba College for over a decade as Head of History and more recently Head of Careers and Scholarship Coordinator. It is exciting taking on the role of Year 13 Dean which will complement working with this year group on their future pathways and goals in their final school year.