



Christchurch High School

Old Boys' Association (Incorporated)

12 February 2021

Open letter to former students of Christchurch Boys' High School

Dear Former Students of Christchurch Boys' High School

"CBHS had been founded on a democratic ideal" So wrote Old Boy Fred de la Mare in the School Magazine of 1920. De la Mare was celebrating an ethos of inclusion.

Your association is firmly behind the School's direction to develop fine young men for a modern world and to produce boys who are morally courageous and who strive for personal and community success.

We agree with the Headmaster when he says that Christchurch Boys' High School should be judged by how welcome its most vulnerable student feels. We support the Headmaster's public statements about the value of diversity, and we want to act to support the school in its moves to champion inclusivity.

All former students are now members of the Association. We welcome all former students regardless of religion, ethnicity or sexuality to reconnect with the School community. We have all have a role to support the work and moral purpose of the school and all the young men who attend it.

One of the most effective ways that we can support the School is to provide models of good men. Former student Chris Parker recently met with the Executive and he spoke of his experience of being different and how during his school days he constantly questioned whether he fitted in and the difference it would have made to his life if a former student had come to a school assembly and said he was gay.

Everyone wants and has a right to fit in and as former students of Christchurch Boys' High School we can provide models to the current students of good, as opposed to real men.

The Association wholly supports the School as it works to promote values, gratitude, inclusivity and diversity. The Association in affirmation of the goals is taking the actions below.

- Publicly supporting the message of the school that all students are valued.
- Organising an event during 2021 to promote and celebrate the diversity amongst our association's membership.
- Being visible at school events such as the mihi whakatau to make sure that students feel welcome as future members of the Association.
- Recognising and awarding recognition to former students who have through service, contributed to society and, through the School, enabling them to be examples to the school's current students.

We intend to take deliberate steps to make sure all former students feel welcome and have networks within our alumni community.

As former students we want to play a role to strengthen the School's culture and provide inspiration for the boys of the school. As the Association grows, we look for further opportunities for us to support all former students and the School through activities, such as enhancing the opportunities for our international alumni and providing mentoring to current and recent students.

Christchurch Boys' High School was founded on humanist ideals. Now is the moment to ensure that the Association provides the right support for the mission of School and provides a reason for all former students to feel connected to School and the Association.

He waka eka noa

Altiora Peto

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Osborne', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Osborne
HSOB President on behalf of the HSOB Executive