

# Thomas House Newsletter

## Message from the Director of Boarding

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends

Another exciting year comes to a close and I know that there are some very relieved senior students now that the NCEA exams are over.

Once again, the atmosphere and culture in the Hostel has been extremely positive and we, on the staff, are always very proud of the young men of Thomas House.



It is with a little sadness that we farewell the class of 2013. Having spent the last five years in the hostel, it is now time for them to look forward to the next chapter in their lives. To all the students of 2013, we thank you for all that you have contributed to making Thomas House such a great establishment and we wish you all the very best for the future.

We will have a full house of 122 students for 2018 and enrolment places are filling quickly for future years.

Thomas House continues to be a healthy position and I would like to sincerely thank all the parents for your strong support throughout the year. Our reputation out in the community is very important and much of this is down to your positive endorsement of the school and hostel. It is much appreciated.

It is therefore our goal to continue to provide the highest quality of service. To ensure this remains the case, we are introducing some exciting new concepts in 2019.

- Foremost to this, is obviously the building development which is on schedule to get underway in the New Year. The committee of Colin Murdoch, Hamish Sheed, Virginia Callaghan, Karla Yeatman, Susan Coker, Sue McNulty and Cameron Gibb have given a huge number of hours into getting this project off the ground and we are truly indebted to their tireless endeavours.
- School staff will be available during Prep time to tutor the boys, working alongside the current tutors who are already contributing to your sons' education.
- The Catering Department is looking at a number of new initiatives, one of which has already been implemented. This is the installation of two new drinks machines enabling the boys to have a range of hot and cold options. We will also be trialling split dinner times, with juniors eating at 5:30pm and seniors at 6:00pm.
- All House Staff will undertake regular training in professional development similar to their school counterparts, ensuring they will be supported in providing the most professional care possible.

These are just a few of the new innovations, so watch this space

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has contributed so much over the year to Thomas House: students, parents, staff and board members. This positive commitment from such a wide diversity of people, has been immense. Have a fabulous time with the family over the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all in February 2018.

**Ross Smith**  
Director of Boarding



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### Special points of interest

- Monday 29 Jan School opens
- Wednesday 25 Jan Student Office opens
- Tuesday 30 Jan TH Reopens
- Wednesday 31 Jan Yr 9 commence
- Waitangi Weekend 3-6 February Compulsory "Out" Weekend



## Message from the Residential Manager

2017 has been another busy year for Thomas House with the boys fully engaged in academic, sporting and cultural activities. We are extremely fortunate to have young men of such a high calibre in the house and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you all for your support during the year, it is very much appreciated having such a great group of parents.

I would like to thank the 2017 Prefect team for their contribution during the year. **David Ellis** as Head Boarder, **Hayden McNulty** as Deputy Head Boarder and the rest of the team

– **Cameron Lyon, Bradley Clucas, Paddy Ahearn, George Copland, Ben McKeown** and **Jack Millar**.

Congratulations to the Thomas House leaders for 2018.

**Mac Edwards** will be Head Boarder, **Ryan Greenslade** and **James Watt** Deputy Head Boarders, with Prefect team members **Shane Fikken, Cathal Guiney** and **Will Pudney**. I look forward to working closely with them next year. We are very proud to have three of these young men taking three of the top four leadership positions at school next year – **Ryan Greenslade** is Head Prefect for TBHS, **Mac Edwards** is Deputy Head Prefect and **James Watt** is House Captain

The Junior Prefect Team has taken on the leadership role since the seniors commenced exams and they have done an outstanding job in maintaining the smooth running of the house. A big thank you to **Jack Fulton** (Junior Head Boarder), **Lucas Wood** (Deputy Junior Head Boarder) and the rest of the team, **Jack Blakemore, Lachy Hyde, McGregor Isbister, Harry Lyon, George Mulder** and **George Small**.

The 2018 Year 9 boys stayed overnight in the house recently and it was lovely to get to know them before they start with us permanently in January. The opportunity for them to meet others in their year group and familiarise themselves with the school and hostel is important and helps ease them into the routines of boarding. We look forward to their arrival in late January.

I would like to thank **Warren Henderson** for the Maths tutoring he has offered this year. He has held after school and evening sessions for a significant number of boys who have appreciated the extra help. Warren also tutored during Senior Prep prior to the exams. Warren will be available again next year, so if you are interested in having Maths tuition for your son, please contact me and I will arrange it.

The Thomas House Xmas/ Leavers' Dinner was held in October before senior exams with **David Ellis** and **Thomas Corbett** cutting the Xmas cake. Thanks to **Justin** and his team for a lovely meal. The boys' speeches were excellent and **Jamie Thomson** enjoyed the opportunity of taking on the role of Santa.

It is very sad to say goodbye to the 2017 leavers – we wish you all the best and we will miss you. I look forward to updates in the future and it is always great to have visits from ex Thomas House boys. Goodbye also to the leavers' parents – it has been lovely getting to know you all and a privilege having your sons in Thomas House.



**2018 Thomas House Prefects**

*L to R: Cathal Guiney, Shane Fikken, James Watt (Deputy Head Boarder), Mac Edwards (Head Boarder), Ryan Greenslade (Deputy Head Boarder), Will Pudney*



**2017 Thomas House Junior Prefects**

*L to R: George Mulder, McGregor Isbister, Lachy Hyde, Lucas Wood (Deputy Junior Head Boarder), Jack Fulton (Junior Head Boarder), Harry Lyon, Jack Blakemore. Absent: George Small*

**Gary Ivamy** has resigned from his role of Head of House Staff as he has taken on employment outside TBHS. We thank Gary for all the time and effort involved and really appreciate everything he has done for Thomas House. Gary will continue on next year as a Housemaster. **Cameron Gibb** has been appointed Head of House Staff for 2018 and we look forward to working closely with him. **Willy** and **Jess Wright** have resigned from the House Staff; it has been great having them on board this year. When I commenced at Thomas House, Willy was a Year 13 boarder so it has been very special for me to have him on the staff this year. We wish them both all the best as they prepare for a major change in their lives when little Junior Wright arrives early next year.

We were very proud to have so many of our junior boys crossing the stage at Junior Prize-giving last Friday. Congratulations to all the prize-winners, this is a real credit to all of you. Particular mention must go to **Dan Patterson, Jed Syme, Innes Hanrahan, George Mulder** and **Callum Bowmar** for attaining First in Class. Two of the top awards went to Thomas House boys: **Dan Patterson** was the recipient of the Year 9 Diligence Cup and **George Mulder** was awarded the premier Year 10 prize, the Peter Fulton Trophy, for Top Performing Year 10 student.

The New Zealand Secondary School Athletics Championships were held a week ago and saw **George Guerin** gain a bronze medal in the Senior Steeplechase event. This is a fantastic result as the senior class is for students up to Year 13 and George is still in Year 11. He will have two more years in this class. George now turns his focus to the Coast to Coast in February where he is competing in the individual event.

Well that's it from me for another year. Have a wonderful Xmas and holidays with your families. I look forward to seeing everyone back in late January.

*Paula Cross*  
*Residential Manager*



*2017 Thomas House Trophy Winners*

## 2017 Thomas House Trophy Winners

Congratulations to the following boys who were recipients of the 2017 Thomas House Cups and Trophies

**Junior Housemasters Cup:** Jack Fulton

**Senior Housemasters Cup :** Jack Millar

**Arthur Dyer Trophy:** Jamie Thomson

You cannot change your  
destination overnight, but you  
can change your direction  
overnight.

Jim Rohn

## Head of House: Valedictory Speech 2017

Well, this time has come around again. Tonight is the night which signals the end of another year at Thomas House. I would like to thank the Rector, Brad, and Pete for sharing this special night with us. I would also like to mention Mrs Cross, who is unable to be here this evening with us. I can still remember my first night here - the Year 8 sleepover, sleeping downstairs sharing a room with my brother and Layton. It was that night I met one of the many characters that this place held. I could never forget my first meeting with the "enthusiastic" boy in the year above whose name I later learned, was Bradley Quine.

Fast forward a few months and it was time to begin my five years here. There were 22 of us who arrived into Year 9, with a couple of additions to those who originally came for the sleepover. It didn't take long for us all to settle in to the hostel routine and continue the traditions of turd wars and bed flipping. It was also at this time that nicknames began to be issued. Charlie was *Schmall*, Cade was *Pumba* and Brayden was *Bush-pig*. I got *Dave*.

In Year 10 I had the opportunity, alongside Charlie, to go to Kinross Wolaroi School on a one term exchange. That experience was truly life changing and I would like to thank everyone involved for allowing me to do it. The end of Year 10 saw naming of the Junior Prefects. Hayden was Head, Charlie was Deputy and I was privileged to be named as a Prefect. To the Year 10s who are named in these roles later this evening, I congratulate you, and to those that miss out, I urge you to keep pushing yourselves, and you will reap the rewards in your senior years.

Years 11 and 12 went by filled with plenty of work -especially from chemistry—alongside greater independence and responsibility. The end of Year 12 was when life began to get busy for me. In September I was elected to the Board of Trustees, and I stood nervously at the Christmas dinner last year, hearing Hayden be announced as Deputy Head Boarder and then heard my name called as the 2017 Head Boarder.

It has been a tremendous honour and privilege to lead the hostel this year. While I'll admit that there have been challenges, some of which we dealt with better than others, I am proud of the way this hostel presents, and the attitudes of the boys that live here. Credit for this should go to a number of people.

Mr Smith, as the stern father figure that runs a tight ship. Deep down we all have immense respect for the work you do and I wholeheartedly thank you for the huge amount of effort and years of service you have put into this place. Mrs Cross, our second mum. You are that amazing person that greets us whenever we walk through the admin block, the kind, caring face that sorts us whenever we have an issue, be it a cold or a lost shoe. You play the good cop role like a pro, although you're not afraid to pull us into line when you need to, and when we deserve it.

To the Housemasters, messrs Gibb, Jones, Brooking, Farmer, Ivamy, Wright and Mac. Thank you for all the hard work you do; from running weekend activities to sorting out our problems in the evening. I would like to pay particular mention of Mr Ivamy who is stepping back from the head housemaster role. From all the boys, I thank you for everything you have done here. To the Rector, and Peter Stayt, as well as Virginia Callaghan and Shane Edwards who are not here tonight, thank you for all the work you do to the hostel. Many of the boys do not know the huge amount of hours you all put in behind the scenes making sure this place is the best it can be for all of us.

To Justin and his catering staff, the domestic staff, as well as Jim and Cathy, thank you for all your work this year. You are the people who work to make our lives that bit easier, and we really do appreciate you for it. To my Prefect team: this year has certainly not been the easiest, but thank you all for your hard work. To Hayden, thank you for all the work you have done this year, you have been an amazing Deputy who I could rely on.

To the Year 9s: I trust that you have all settled into life at Thomas House, and I urge you to take all of the opportunities that are offered to you, reap the rewards these give you, and enjoy your next few years here.



*Valedictory Speech: David Ellis,  
Head Boarder*

To the Year 10s, enjoy the challenge of being seniors, and all the responsibility that goes with it. Rise to the occasion with NCEA, and give it your all.

To the Year 11s: you're going to hear this enough, but next year is your most important year academically. Don't be afraid of it, just put the work in and you will get the results you deserve.

To the Year 12s: next year is your turn. You have finally earned the right to be at the top. Make the most of what will be a full year, and make sure you still leave some time for yourselves.

Finally, to the Year 13s: we've made it. Five years in this place have finally come to an end. We have seen all the highs and lows, right from day one. It has been my absolute privilege to be a part of this group, and I thank you all for making this year group what it is.

Now, briefly, I would like to take the time to share some things I have learned this year. The world is a changing and challenging place, and we may not always get the outcomes we want, but do not be put off. Use these challenges to your advantage, and make the most of what you can get. One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to be afraid of failure. Don't be. Learn from the mistakes you make and use them to get ahead. Also, be happy. If you enjoy something, keep doing it, and if you don't, ask yourself why you don't. If you can keep yourself in a positive state of mind, you will be amazed of what you can achieve. Lastly, the world is bigger than this place. If things don't go your way, don't worry. This is only a very small part of the wider world, it is not the be all and end all of existence. If something negative happens, the sun still comes up the next day. Use what happens here to learn and prepare for the future, and you will be absolutely fine.

Again I would like to thank everyone involved for giving me this opportunity, it has been certainly a challenging but rewarding role. Since now as my time as Head Boarder has come to an end, I end by saying to each and everyone *of you goodbye, and good luck.*

*David Ellis*  
*Head Boarder 2017*

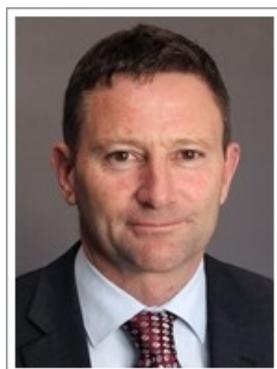
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*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy".*

***Martin Luther King Jnr***

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## Message from the Rector



I hope that you and your son enjoy the finest of festive seasons with a well – earned break this Summer. The year seems to have raced by. So many events have come and gone in school and hostel for our ‘band of boarders’.

Thank you to all the parents who supported Thomas House staff to be a special place again, and to all the hostel staff who made it all happen. The wider education that the boys take from Thomas House remains a proud jewel in the TBHS Crown.

In 2018 we look forward to starting the hostel’s physical rejuvenation, and its growth as a social and learning environment with new activities and learning support developed; this all part of truly all-round education.

Take care. Scientia Potestas Est. Mā te Mātauranga te Mana.

**Nick McIvor**  
**Rector**

# 2017 Leavers' Intentions

*We wish our leavers of 2017 every success and best wishes for the years ahead of them*



**Paddy Ahearn (Yr 13)**  
Diploma in Agriculture,  
Lincoln University



**Luke Clucas (Yr 12)**  
Working on Raincliff Station



**Liam Coll (Yr 12)**  
Heavy Diesel Course  
Ara Polytechnic



**George Copland (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Chemical Process Engineering  
Canterbury University



**Cameron Ellis (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)  
Otago University



**David Ellis (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor Law and Arts, major Political  
Science and Public Policy  
Victoria University



**Ben McKeown (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Agricultural Commerce  
Lincoln University



**Hayden McNulty (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Science  
Otago University



**Jack Millar (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Commerce and Agriculture  
Lincoln University



**Hamish Schmack (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Agricultural Commerce  
Lincoln University



**Charlie Stock (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Agricultural Science  
Lincoln University

## 2017 Leavers' Intentions



**Jamie Thomson (Yr 13)**

Considering applying to Police Force



**Layton Wilson (Yr 13)**

Bachelor of Land & Property Management  
Lincoln University



## Thomas House Redevelopment Committee

The Board of Trustees of Timaru Boys' High School are moving forward with the Thomas House Redevelopment Project.

This is a huge undertaking that has required meticulous planning by the Board, with the Redevelopment Committee being the driving force behind this project.

We have been impressed with the way the team has worked its way through the various steps or even hurdles that seem to crop up with these sorts of projects. But now it's all go.

Obviously there are many segments to this project and one of these is the need to raise \$800,000 in donations by March 2018. The details of how you can do this were included in the brochure which has been sent to all current and future parents, outlining the details of the project.

We ask you to get in behind the project so that our boarders at Thomas House can reside in a modern facility.

## Year 9 Contribution: Thomas Corbett

My name is Thomas Corbett. I come from a farm just south of a little town called Mayfield. I went to Waihi as a day boy for two years before I came to Timaru Boys' in 2017. As such I was a little nervous about boarding in Thomas House.

After the first couple of weeks I found I really enjoyed it. There was a lot of similarities but also a lot of differences from Waihi. Since I now had a lot of spare time, I decided to take up sailing. The first term we met down at the Timaru Yacht Club twice a week after school.

In the winter I played hockey and for Term 2, I took an Aviation Course which was through the Gateway programme. I enjoyed it tremendously and ended up being allowed to actually fly a plane.

In the hostel I have met all sorts of new people and since things were quite different from Waihi I had to change the way I thought. It took a while to adjust to different sorts of people. Now I feel I know most people in at least some way.

I found the staff at Thomas House very helpful when I needed something. While Thomas House is great, I always look forward to going home in the weekends.



## Thomas House Finance Update



### Boarding Fees 2018

Boarding fees for 2017 have been increased to **\$12,900.00** per annum (GST inclusive). This will be **charged in three instalments over three terms** at the rate of \$4,340.00 (includes Amenities). Thomas House accounts will be mailed regularly and all invoices are due for payment four weeks from receipt of the invoice.

### Amenities Fees

This compulsory annual fee of **\$120** covers special activities, outings and purchases that benefit the boys and is non-refundable.

**Thomas House** bank account number is **12-3159-0038004-02**

[When paying by this method please ensure that your son's name appears on our bank statement]

**Please Note:** The account for Timaru Boys' High School is a separate account from Thomas House and is only available for boarders to add school related costs such as stationery, camps and course fees. Invoices will be issued monthly and parents are required to pay this account promptly. Expensive items such as uniforms must be paid at the time of purchase.

**Timaru Boys' High School** bank account number is **12-3159-0038004-00**

### Medical/Travel/Misc Charge

The amount of **\$200** is charged to boys' Hostel accounts when they enter Thomas House. This money is used to pay for Dr, physio, pharmacy, mileage costs and any other minor miscellaneous costs associated with the boys' stay in the hostel. A spreadsheet is kept for each student, detailing the costs charged and is available upon request. When the amount drops to below \$100, parents will be charged an extra \$200 to "top up" available funds.

Please note, this is your money that we administer as a service to parents. Any monies remaining when your son leaves the hostel will be repaid along with the \$500 bond.

If you have any queries regarding this charge, please contact Carolyn Bunting on 03 687 7560 ext 703 or email [buntingca@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:buntingca@timaruboysschool.nz)

## 2018 School and Boarder Commencement Details

**Important note:**

**Years 12 and 13: please bring your NCEA results to Course Confirmation**  
*If boarders are unable to attend, this can be done by email to the Senior Deans*  
*(check the school website for contact details)*

	Monday 22 January	School Office Opens	
	Wednesday 24 January	Student Office Opens	
Monday 29 January	Year 13 Course Confirmation	1:00pm-3:00pm	
Tuesday 30 January	Year 12 Course Confirmation	10:30am – 12:00pm	Surnames A-M
	Year 12 Course Confirmation	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Surnames N-Z
Wednesday 31 January	Years 11/12/13	9:00am – 10:30am	
	Year 10	11:00am – 12:00pm	
	Year 9	1:00pm – 3:00pm	

**Thursday 1 February** School commences for **ALL Students** at 8:45am

The Hostel will open on **Tuesday 30 January**. All boys in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 must be in the House for dinner by 6:00pm

**Wednesday 31 January**

**Year 9** New Entrants are asked to arrive at Thomas House by 10:00am to be shown to their dormitories. There is morning tea at 11:00am to which all new entrants' families are cordially invited.

**Thursday 1 February**

8:45am start: A full School Day

The weekend **3-6 February** is a compulsory **"OUT"** weekend for all year levels due to Waitangi Day falling on Tuesday 6 February. (School will be closed Monday)

The weekend of **10-11 February** is a **COMPULSORY "IN" WEEKEND** for all Year 9 and 13 boys.

Ross Smith and Paula Cross can be contacted at the Hostel on 03 687 7169, the week before school commences.

Or on cell phones: Ross: 027 222 5458; Paula: 021 0279 3050

**Thomas House**

Phone: 03 687 7560

Fax: 03 688 8219

Email: [smithro@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:smithro@timaruboysschool.nz) or [crosspa@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:crosspa@timaruboysschool.nz)



