

# Thomas House Newsletter

## Message from the Director of Boarding

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends

Once again it is time to farewell another group of fine young men from Thomas House. It has been a real privilege to have students of their calibre in the Hostel and we are immensely proud of what they have achieved over the years. I am sure they depart with memories and friendships that will remain with them throughout their lives.



The senior students set the tone in the House and we thank them for their positive leadership. The Christmas Dinner was excellent and well organised by the seniors. In particular I would like to thank **Liam Busse, Tim Wills** and the Prefect team for their input in making this an occasion to remember. For those returning next year, the holidays will be an opportunity for some time to “chill out” and take a well-deserved break, while others I am sure will use this time to work on the farm or elsewhere to earn extra cash for vehicles etc. We look forward to seeing the boys return in 2017, refreshed and ready to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

To the families, we thank you sincerely for your continued support, not only within the House but also with the cattle raising and other school activities. Please keep contacting us if you have any concerns or suggestions as your input and feedback is so important. This contact enables us to provide the best possible service to both you and your son.

**Henry Booth** one of our Housemasters will depart at the end of the year. Henry joined us in June of 2014 and was brave enough to take over Vaughan Skeas’ apartment or as it affectionately known, the “crow’s nest”. Living with 30 young men below and 50 boys beside his apartment was no mean feat. I believe Henry deserves a medal for his patience and forbearance on many occasions. He has been an outstanding housemaster and has earned the respect of all whom he has been associated with. Henry leaves us to continue working towards a Bachelor of Commerce at Wellington University. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavours and thank him sincerely for his commitment to the boys and his excellent work ethic. And to **Janelle King** - we wish her all the very best for new role at St Bernard’s College, Lower Hutt. Janelle’s, happy, vibrant personality has been appreciated by both boys and staff. Her positive contribution to hostel life will be sorely missed.

The new building development is still very much on course to begin in 2018. This exciting venture will, when completed, certainly put Thomas House on the map in regard to providing top accommodation for boarding in schools. On behalf of the boys and staff I would like to express our gratitude to the committee; **Colin Murdoch, Hamish Sheed, Virginia Callaghan, Warren Leslie, Karla Yeatman, Susan Coker, Sue McNulty, Vicki Rollinson** and **Cameron Gibb** for the enthusiastic, determined approach and the massive time commitment to this project to date.

I also wish to thank everyone: student, parents, staff and board members who have contributed so much over the year to Thomas House.

Have a wonderful family time over the Christmas and New Year break and we look forward to seeing you all in February 2017.

**Ross Smith**  
Director of Boarding

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### Special points of interest

- Monday 23 Jan  
School opens
- Wednesday 25 Jan  
Office opens
- Tuesday 31 Jan  
TH Reopens
- Wednesday 1 Feb  
Yr 9 commence





## Message from the Residential Manager

As the 2016 school year draws to a close, it is time to farewell the Thomas House boys for the summer holidays. This year has flown by and it certainly doesn't feel like we have had 40 weeks in the house. I have thoroughly enjoyed my seventh year as Residential Manager; it is such a privilege to look after your sons - thank you so much for entrusting them into my care. They are awesome boys and it gives me a lot of pleasure watching their development both academically and personally.

Thanks to the 2016 Prefect Team for their contribution over the course of the year. **Liam Busse** as Head Boarder, **Tim Wills** as Deputy Head Boarder and the team of **Sam Allan, James Bell, Thomas Bell, William Bishop, Sam Early, Flynn Schikker, James Steven** and **Bede Wright** have impressed with the time and effort put into executing their roles, especially in watching over the Year 9s. The Year 9 stay in weekend, Year 10 BBQ with Craighead and Quiz Night with Timaru Girls boarders all take lots of organising by boys who already have busy schedules, so a huge thank you for your efforts.

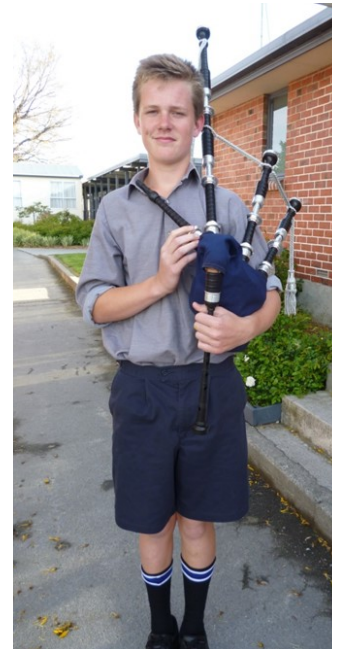
To **Jake Edwards** our inaugural Sports Captain, a big thank you for all the effort put in to broaden the activities within the House. The swimming sports, house game competitions and the reinstatement of the tennis ladder after several years, were some of the initiatives he implemented. In this arena Jake has shown outstanding leadership qualities.

Congratulations to the 2017 leadership team **David Ellis** (Head Boarder), **Hayden McNulty** (Deputy Head Boarder), **Cameron Lyon** (Sports Captain and Prefect) and the rest of the Prefect team: **Bradley Clucas, Ben McKeown** and **Jack Millar**. I look forward to working closely with you next year.

The Junior Prefect Team for 2016 has taken over from the seniors since their exams commenced and they have done an excellent job in maintaining the routines of the house. A big thank you to **Matt Kennedy** (Junior Head Boy), **Hayden Jefferson** (Junior Deputy Head Boy), and the team of **Isaac Beattie, Eli Callaghan, Sam Milne, Fergus Prouting, Duncan Rollinson, Tom Scott, Tim Sheed** and **Sam Tayler**.

The Thomas House Christmas Dinner was once again a very enjoyable occasion. Thanks to **George Mulder** (pictured right) for piping the staff into the dining room. It is a tribute to the Year 13s' organisational skills that the evening ran so well. **Liam Busse** and **Eddie Keating** had the honour of cutting the Xmas cake and we all enjoyed a beautiful dinner cooked by Justin and his team. The boys' speeches were excellent and I enjoyed the power point presentation! James Steven was a jovial Santa.

Once again it is sad to say goodbye to our Year 13 leavers. It has been a real pleasure having them in the House over the last five years and they can be very proud of the super young men they have become. I wish them well in their endeavours and look forward to regular catch-ups in the future. Farewell Sam, James, Thomas, William, Liam, Sam, Jake, Jacob, Thomas, Flynn, Tim and Bede – I will miss you. We also have several other boys leaving from various year levels – Olly, Gus,



Back : **Eli Callaghan, Sam Tayler, Sam Milne, Tom Scott, Fergus Prouting, Duncan Rollinson**

Front : **Tim Sheed, Isaac Beattie, Matt Kennedy, Hayden Jefferson**

Elliot, Troy, Wills, William and Jimmy, it has been great to have you here and you have my very best wishes for the future.

Thanks to this year's Thomas House tutors: **Bruce Leadley, John Paul** and **Warren Henderson** in Maths and **Lynley Olds** in English . We really appreciate the time involved in helping our boys. I will initiate this tutoring option again next year so please contact me if you are interested in your son taking advantage of this opportunity.

It was lovely to have next year's Year 9 boys stay a night in the house recently. It gave them the opportunity to meet each other and get a feel for life in Thomas House. I enjoyed getting to know them a bit better before they arrive as permanent members in the New Year.

I would like to personally thank our departing House Staff, **Henry Booth** and **Janelle King**. They have both been outstanding in their time here and will be really missed. Henry is heading to Victoria University to complete a Bachelor of Commerce and Janelle has accepted a teaching position at St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt.

Well that's it from me. Thank you all for your support during the year. Have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season with your sons.

**Paula Cross**  
**Residential Manager**



*Henry Booth*



*Janelle King*



*Back : Tom Scott, James Watt, Hayden Jefferson  
Front: Thomas Mulligan, Sam Allan, Flynn Schikker*

## 2016 Thomas House Cup and Trophy Winners

Congratulations to the following boys who were recipients of the 2016 Thomas House Cups and Trophies

**Junior Tennis Cup:** Tom Scott Year 10

**Senior Tennis Cup:** James Watt

**House Trophy:** Lovelock (Team Captain: Sam Allan)

**Junior Housemasters Cup:** Hayden Jefferson

**Senior Housemasters Cup :** Thomas Mulligan

**Arthur Dyer Trophy:** Flynn Schikker

## Head of House: Valedictory Speech 2016

Good evening Mr McIvor, Mrs Callaghan, Mr Smith, Mrs Cross, Housemasters and Students.

I think I can say this on behalf of my fellow Year 13s, that our journey here has sped by. While mine has been a year and a term shorter than most, it has, without a doubt, been the best years of my life so far. I remember arriving on the afternoon of Term 2, in year 10, finding my way up to Fraser Wing for only the second time ever, to finally settle in to my room, and suddenly get used to my second home. Luckily for me, I wasn't placed on any official roll so I managed to skip duties for the remainder of my junior year. Mr Smith's wrath was something to be feared, and the instant punishment of twelve laps for not signing in was to be avoided as much as possible. Jesse Shearer often beat any of us up when he was on duty, just for coughing. Year 10 finished up with my first Christmas dinner, the junior roles were the biggest deal of the year, and I was named as Sam Allan's deputy for the last few weeks.

After laughing at how ridiculous everyone looked in a white shirt and tie, we ventured off for our first year as senior students, to face the dreaded NCEA. Year 11 and 12 went by in a blur and here we sat, a year ago, with most of our year group probably struggling to sit still - possibly as much as the Year 12s this year! As the announcements went on, our Prefects were set with Tim as my Deputy. Our first challenge was the year 8 sleepover night, where between Tim and myself, we helped foster the year 9's for their first night over.

Throughout this year, the Prefect team has managed to put on, and be a part of a number of activities: the Year 9 "in-weekend", the Year 10 BBQ with Craighead and the more recent Quiz Night with Timaru Girls' High School Hostel. We've had a few ups and downs, but managed to pull through our final year, mostly without a scratch.

As always, the hostel wouldn't be the home we know it to be without a vital number of staff. To Kathy, thank you for spending your days sorting through not only mine, but around 110 other boys' clothes. The cleaning staff, who day in and day out make our rooms look that much better, thank you for putting up with our messes. To Jim. The man who can do it all. I don't think Mr Smith has found anything you can't do yet, and that goes to show what a wonderful man you are, thank you for everything you do. And to Justin and the kitchen staff. Thank you for feeding me three times a day. It can't be easy to cater for and try and please over 100 growing boys, but I think you've definitely succeeded and brought the boys a wide variety of new meals.

To the Housemasters, Mr Ivamy, Mr Mac, Mr Gibb, Mr Jones, Miss King, Mr Bennison and Mr Booth, thank you for all you do to run the hostel after hours. You all take your time to build a unique relationship with the boys, and it helps everyone feel that little bit more at home. Mrs Cross. I don't think anyone could describe how much you help us all. You've seen me at my worst, and helped me through a number of tough times. I can't thank you enough for all of your time, thoughtful words and advice, you're an amazing woman. And last but not least, Mr Smith. Thank you for managing and running this second home. Everything you do is to benefit the boys and to make this house more welcoming. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to lead the Prefect team, and for the opportunity to improve on my own personal skills.

I'd also like to say a thank you to Tim, for organising a number of things and being so flexible while I've had other things on. You've been an invaluable Deputy and friend, and I don't think I could have had anyone better by my side.

For some final advice: to the Year 9s. Unfortunately, I can't say I've experienced what you have this year, but I trust it's been a good start. You've got a long way to go yet but it'll go quicker than you think.

To the Year 10s: enjoy getting a taste of what it's like to be a Prefect at the hostel; hopefully you'll make the grade in your final year too. Good luck for NCEA next year - always, always stay on top of your workload.

To the Year 11s: I think I'll miss you the most. Remember that next year is the most important academic year you'll



*Cutting the 2016 Christmas Cake:  
Liam Busse, Head of House and  
Year 9 student Eddie Keating*

have. Be kind, and courteous, because you never know what is going on in someone's life.

And to the Year 12s: I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to everyone who is privileged enough to receive a leadership role later this evening. You'll be in for an exceptional year and please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, or any of the other leaders if you need any help or advice.

All of you boys continue to be the heart of the school, with a number of pleasant comments and stories being told among staff and members of the public. The stereotype of farming and driving tractors is still fulfilled, and you continue to be your friendly, cheerful selves. However, I'm going to propose a challenge to you. Remember that you're only 120 bodies out of over 59 thousand in South Canterbury alone. Out of four million in New Zealand, and out of 7 billion in the world. **Every! Single! One!** of those 7 billion souls is different in their own way. Accept those differences because they all have strengths and weaknesses. You won't like everyone, even in here, but if you can rein in every different strength, even within 120 boys, you'll find something truly special in this fine group of young men.

Thank you.

**Liam Busse**  
**Head of School**  
**Head of House**



**2017 Thomas House Prefects**

Back: Cam Lyon, Ben McKeown, Hayden McNulty  
Front: Bradley Clucas, David Ellis, Jack Millar

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*"My favourite animal is the turtle. The reason is that in order for the turtle to move, it has to stick its neck out. There are going to be times in your life when you're going to have to stick your neck out. There will be challenges and instead of hiding in a shell, you have to go out and meet them." - Ruth Westheim*

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## Message from the Rector



We're at our zenith; the end of another year of growth, friendship, and education. If, as our motto says, 'knowledge is power', I hope your son finishes 2016 secure in the knowledge that he took the best he could from his time in Thomas House this year, and gave of his best in return.

The hostel environment is special; one that also defines the entire school in its own way. It's a place made all the more special by the unique character it takes from the personalities (and, at times, peculiarities) of the boys who live there together. While routines and rituals of the hostel may carry over annually, with expectations perennial, and experiences recurrent, each year is still very different from the previous one, because different boys join the group, and other older boys have a greater bearing as they grow closer to their true, full, or distinctive self.

I wish good fortune to all those departing from Thomas House and the school. Stake your claim well in the working world or world of further study and qualifications, find good people to surround yourself with, and become the person that others will hold in high regard and be drawn to, for your positive personal qualities. This will always be your school and you will always harbour the added dimension, added attribute, of being an Old Boy of the TBHS 'family' that is the Thomas House family.

Have a tremendous and well-deserved summer break with family and friends.

**Nick McIvor**  
**Rector**

## 2016 Leavers' Intentions

*We wish our leavers of 2016 every success and best wishes for the years ahead of them*



**Sam Allan (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Lincoln University



**James Bell (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Massey University



**Thomas Bell (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Engineering with Honours, Canterbury University



**William Bishop (Yr 13)**  
Coleridge Downs  
Farm Cadet Training



**Liam Busse (Yr 13)**  
BA Majoring in International Relations, Victoria University



**Sam Early (Yr 13)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Health Sciences, Otago University



**Jake Edwards (Yr 13)**  
Customer Service Consultant, BNZ  
Ashburton



**Jacob Keenan (Yr 13)**  
Work Experience in Film Company 2017, Diploma in Film from UB in Canterbury 2018



**Thomas Mulligan (Yr 13)**  
Building Apprenticeship



**Flynn Schikker (Yr 13)**  
Bachelor of Social Work  
Canterbury University



**James Steven (Yr 13)**  
Work on Home Farm

## 2016 Leavers' Intentions



**Tim Wills (Yr 13)**  
Helicopter Load Master in Air Force



**Bede Wright (Yr 13)**  
Working on Glen Lyon Station



**Troy Edwards (Yr 12)**  
Work on home farm



**Elliot Meyer (Yr 12)**  
Day Boy 2017



**Gus Sutton (Yr 12)**  
Heavy Diesel Automotive Engineering  
Aoraki Polytechnic



**Olly Wright (Yr 12)**  
Level 4 National Certificate of  
Agriculture, Taratahi, Masterton



**William McCormick (Yr 11)**  
Automotive Course, Aoraki Polytech



**Wills Tait (Yr 11)**  
Work on a Dairy Farm



**Jimmy Robertson (Yr 10)**  
Day Boy 2017

*"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."*

*- Dr. Seuss*

## 2016 Thomas House Student Survey

This survey provided an opportunity for boys to anonymously answer a questionnaire that aimed at identifying unwanted physical or verbal behaviours that are hurtful and unacceptable e.g. name calling, peer exclusion, teasing, unwarranted comments, physical bullying etc

## Thomas House Student Safety Survey

- Out of 86 respondents, 60 students affirmed that they were not targeted with any bullying incidents in the Hostel, 11 students affirmed that there was a lot of “banter” thrown around and 15 boys felt they had been targeted—the majority with name calling.
- Identified issues have been followed through with appropriate action by the Director of Boarding and Hostel Management team.
- Support is offered by the school Guidance Counsellor to boys and in 2017, a Police Youth Educational and Safety Officer will be a guest speaker at an Assembly.
- Certain physical areas have been identified as lending themselves to unacceptable behaviour and these are now being closely monitored.
- Thomas House strives to maintain high standards of care for our boys, therefore bullying and threatening behaviour in any form within the Hostel situation is not tolerated and continued education on this subject is required.

## 2016 Thomas House Parent Survey

This survey provided an opportunity for parents to express any concerns they may have re Thomas House boarding for their sons as well as mentioning the positives.

The majority of hostel families responded to the survey with the largest response being from parents of Years 9 and 10.

Thank you to all who took the time and participated.

## Thomas House Parent Survey

- Feedback from parents has been positive in tone and extremely encouraging of staff who have established a sound rapport with boys.
- Positive comments in regard to boy’s involvement in sporting and cultural activities were noted.
- Several suggestions from parents have already been acted upon including the continuation of Food Committee meetings set up throughout the year.
- A concern was expressed at the amount of time it is taking to initiate the new redevelopment at Thomas House. Although frustrating, due process must be followed with the Ministry of Education.
- An urgent upgrade of the Hostel internet service is required with greater site monitoring —quotes have been sought for the upgrade and it is hoped to have this up and running in 2017.
- The survey responses have been much appreciated by the Management Team who strive to ensure Thomas House’s success.

If you have any queries re the results of the surveys, please feel free to contact Ross Smith on 03 687 7169 or email [smithro@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:smithro@timaruboysschool.nz)





## Message from the Chairperson BOT Hostel Committee

A warm hello to all of our Thomas House families.

Like all good hostels, Thomas House has many great people involved, both within the school community and from outside of the school. I would like to thank you all for your commitment and work this year in ensuring that Thomas House remains a happy, comfortable home for our boys.

Please continue to read the updates you receive on progress of Thomas House’s Redevelopment (young men included!) and when the time comes for us all to pull together and help, be willing to lend a hand .

To everyone in the Thomas House community, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a safe New Year, and look forward to a great 2017.

Kind regards

**Shane Edwards**

## Thomas House Gardening Team

In Term 3 a group of Year 9s (**Hamish Tayler, Jack Fulton, Rhys Cramond, George Mulder and Angus Plunket**) thought we would like to start a hostel garden out the back in the spare garden plots. We asked Mr Archibald and he said “ sure, it’s been overgrown for years” so our group dug over the first garden and then we decided what we wanted to grow.

I brought in some seed potatoes and we all planted them into a nice bed. Then we all collected seeds from home and planted them—there were radish, courgette, kale, leek, lettuce, parsley, broad bean, chive, strawberry and carrot seeds. We planted those and then we thought we would make an irrigation system. So we made that and we’ve just been weeding and watering them to keep them looking healthy. The potatoes are up and looking good.

Now we’ve started a mini-business mowing lawns and weeding gardens for other staff. We’ve cleaned up Miss Mathieson’s garden and done Mr Ivamy’s and next week we’re cutting Miss Hall’s hedge.

We really enjoy getting out and doing activities like we do at home. It’s been good fun working after school, keeping busy and making some pocket money.

I’ve loved my first year in Thomas House. It’s very different to living on the farm but with the hostel garden it makes it feel more like home. In the hostel I’ve made a lot of great mates for life – there’s always someone to do things with.

**Hamish Tayler**



**George Mulder, Angus Plunket, Jack Fulton, Hamish Tayler, Rhys Cramond**



**Hamish Tayler, Rhys Cramond**



**Jack Fulton, Rhys Cramond**

## Thomas House Redevelopment Committee

Our committee are still working on the proposal that will go to the Ministry. This is taking longer than we anticipated but it is important that the financial proposals are correct. We don't want this project to become an ongoing financial burden to the Hostel. We will have the proposal finalised in the next couple of days. We will then meet with the Southern Regional Financial Adviser before it is sent to the Ministry.

In October we had a meeting with Chris Moore the National President of the Old Boys' Association. He is very supportive of this project and will be contacting the Old Boys' Regional Chairmen to gain support for this project. We have already received a donation of \$100,000 from the Lewis Family Trust for which we are extremely grateful—this is very encouraging news.

I would like to thank those parents who have reared calves or grazed cattle for the Hostel. Your ongoing support of this project is appreciated.

*Colin Murdoch*



TBHS HOSTEL DEVELOPMENT  
CONCEPT DESIGN STAGE  
VIEW ACROSS COURTYARD



## Thomas House Finance Update



### Boarding Fees 2017

Boarding fees for 2017 have been increased to **\$12,100.00** per annum (GST inclusive). This will be **charged in three instalments over three terms** at the rate of \$4,073.33 (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.

### Voluntary Donation

A voluntary donation of \$900 per family will also be added to the Hostel accounts, to be spread over three instalments, to be contributed to the Thomas House redevelopment.

**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)

## 2017 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 23 January                      School Office Opens  
Wednesday 25 January                Student Office Opens

**Years 12 and 13 (with NCEA results)**

Monday 30 January	Year 13 Course Confirmation	10:00am – 12:00pm	
Tuesday 31 January	Year 12 Course Confirmation	10:30am – 12:00pm	Surnames A-M
	Year 12 Course Confirmation	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Surnames N-Z
Wednesday 1 February	Years 11/12/13	9:00am – 10:30am	
	Year 10	11:00am – 12:00pm	
	Year 9	1:00pm – 3:00pm	

**Thursday 2 February    School commences for ALL Students at 8:45am**

**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)

The Hostel will open on **Tuesday 31 January**. All boys in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 must be in the House for dinner by 6:00pm

**Wednesday 1 February**

**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 2 February**

8:45am start: A full School Day

The weekend **4-6 February** is a compulsory **"OUT" weekend** for all year levels due to Waitangi Day falling on Monday 6 February.

The weekend of **11-12 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



**Year 9 2017**