

From the Head of Secondary School

EVERT VAN FLORENSTEIN

The Leavers' Assembly was also an opportunity to acknowledge and honour the staff who are leaving us at the end of the year, some with many years of service.



Susan Poulter

Susan Poulter is already on maternity leave. We wish her all the best with motherhood and look forward to her return in late 2020.



Margaret Smeaton

Margaret Smeaton, who has been on maternity leave this year, has decided not to return as she is so enjoying being a mum. Margaret will be very much missed as a Dean, her boundless energy and the belief that every student in her care has the potential to succeed. A very skilled teacher, who will be missed by her Science and Biology students. Fortunately for us, she has promised to continue to help with our basketball programme.



Steen Bielby

Steen Bielby joined us last year straight out of grad school, where he was acknowledged as one of the top graduates by being released a term early. Steen has proven himself to be an exceptional teacher of English and we wish him well for the future.



Dave Clark

What can I say about Dave Clark? Those that have been taught by him will agree that there are few with better connections and knowledge of all things agricultural. The number of field trips also need to be mentioned, with the concept of education outside the classroom having been taken to a new level. It will be a real challenge to replace Dave. We wish him all the best with the next chapter of his life.



Emma McLeod

Emma McLeod has done an awesome job this year covering for Diana Crawford who will be returning from maternity leave next year. Not many teachers can teach such an array of subjects and with such skill. We also thank her for the hours she put into netball as a manager.



Anais Lerosier-Hucke

We thank Anais Lerosier-Hucke for her passion for mathematics and the fact that she has now stepped in twice when we needed her most. Anais has been covering for Erin Swarbrick who will be returning from maternity leave next year. We are also grateful for the time and energy Anais put into co-curricular sport; volleyball, football, futsal, and netball.



Louise Simpson

Louise Simpson has also had two periods of time as a teacher at St Andrew's College, the first was as a French teacher, and the second covering for Dominica Urmson's Social Studies classes. Her experience and wisdom have been an enormous asset to the Accelerated Learning programme. Louise has also made a significant contribution with our junior choir as the manager. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best for the future.



Jane Matthews

Jane Matthews, who has been an integral part of the Learning Support team, is also leaving. In her nine years at St Andrew's College, she has helped many students with their work, ensuring that they too had an opportunity to achieve their personal best. Her professional, calm, patient and persistent manner is enormously respected by students and staff alike, it will be enormously difficult to replace her.

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Simon Williams, Geoff Stanton, Alastair McGowan and Pete Feary

Simon Williams

When you mention Simon Williams (1995 to present) you immediately have visions of the TV Studio and the endless productions his team have captured. Simon has informed me that it will take about a year to archive the 23 years of footage which he and his team have captured.

Simon Williams came to us in 1995 from the TV industry working part-time on junior Performing Arts classes and a Senior option, plus launched the Beyond the Camera Course. Through his many contacts, he was able to beg, borrow and steal enough equipment to set up our beloved TV Studio. No College tour with prospective students and their parents is complete without a tour of the TV Studio, it always wows with the desired effect.

Simon also set up a 'film camp', Beyond The Camera TV, and a Film Course for students all over New Zealand. He also initiated the 'Fashion Show', again a national fashion event for teenagers from around New Zealand from 2000–2005.

No major assembly or event in the last 25 years has passed by without Simon and his team capturing the moment; Prizegivings, special assemblies, the opening of new buildings to name but a few. The centenary celebration was probably his crowning glory. It is his genius which has empowered his students to take full control and run these special occasions; the leadership, initiative, and perseverance shown by his media team is exceptional.

Many of Simon's students have gone on to have extremely successful careers in the TV and film industry, especially in the technical area. More importantly, due to the respect they have for Simon, they have given freely of their time and worked in various ways for the benefit of the College and students for free.

Simon, we thank you for everything that you have done for St Andrew's College, I promise that your legacy will live on.

Alastair McGowan

Alastair McGowan (1992 to present) came to St Andrew's College in 1992 after a successful career in management as a mechanical engineer. Initially, he worked part-time as a technology teacher and private driving instructor to supplement his income. After a year's placement at Rangi Ruru Girls' School in 1996, he secured a full-time position at St Andrew's teaching Workshop Technology and Graphics, with a promotion to Teacher in Charge of Graphics a few years later. In the early years, he gained a postgraduate diploma through Massey University in Christian Education which allowed him to teach Religious Education, a subject he has taught ever since.

In 1997 Alastair assembled the first female football team at St Andrew's, a team he successfully coached and took to national and overseas tournaments. 1997 also saw him become a Canterbury and New Zealand badged football referee. As his gift to the Canterbury community, he committed literally hundreds of hours to girls' football officiating.

Alastair has also made a significant contribution to music at St Andrew's College as a member of the school's concert band and orchestra playing the tuba.

Alastair told me that he has loved his time at St Andrew's College and cannot believe how quickly 27 years have flown by. He feels that this College has been a great fit for him, and he will really miss all the dedicated colleagues and students he has got to know over the years.

We thank Alastair for the dedicated service he has given to St Andrew's College.

Pete Feary

Those of you who have been lucky enough to know or been taught by Pete Feary (1986 to present) will agree that he is always positive, kind, and shows genuine interest in what you have to say. Pete came to St Andrew's College in 1986 from Fairley High School as a PE and Science teacher. In 1990 he became the Careers Counsellor, and literally thousands of students have benefited from his immense knowledge of career pathways, he will be a hard act to follow. One of his other major contributions was to introduce volleyball to the College, which he looked after for 23 years. There is no question that volleyball is a thriving sport at St Andrew's thanks to the foundations he laid. Pete also served as a Dean for a number of years.

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Both his daughters, Rebecca (OC 2002) and Olivia (OC 2005), are Old Collegians of St Andrew's College, with his oldest daughter being part of the first Year 9 intake of girls in 1998.

Pete told me that he will remember the students as friendly, positive, and respectful who have helped him keep young at heart. He would also like to acknowledge the support he has enjoyed from the parents of the College and the many sacrifices that they have made to send their children to St Andrew's College.

Pete is going to have a gap year to work out what the next chapter of his life is going to look like. New adventures, family, and friends will be a huge part of his life post St Andrew's College.

Geoff Stanton

Geoff Stanton (1984 to present) came to us from Papanui High School in 1984 and was promoted in 1987 to the Head of PE role.

Geoff has always been a huge advocate for Health and PE and has campaigned tirelessly to ensure, unlike in other schools, the senior students also take part in these programmes. In the 'social media' world our students live in today, Health and PE play an even more important role in well-being.

Geoff was a great supporter of building a second gym, fitness centre, and AstroTurf, and what stunning facilities we have. The gym, fitness centre, and turf areas have provided a great venue for his badminton, rugby, and tennis teams to enjoy significant success under his stewardship; Canterbury grade titles, South Island and national titles to name but a few.

Geoff has always been passionate about Māoritanga and has been part of a team to bring this to life through a mihi whakatau at the beginning of each year, compulsory Tikanga/Te Reo classes in Year 9, Te Waka classes in Year 10, and Te Reo as a subject in its own right.

Hauora is a philosophy of well-being which encompasses the physical, mental and emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of health. Geoff uses this philosophy to guide him when leading and engaging with the staff and students he has been entrusted with. Members of his department have always felt included, cared for, and safe and are deeply appreciative of this.

Both Geoff's daughters, Shenan (OC 2010) and Kiri (OC 2005), attended St Andrew's College, what special memories they must be able to share as a family.

Geoff told me that he has loved working with all the hard-working and collegial staff and the wonderful students he has got to know over the years.

Geoff, from the whole school community, thank you for your 36-year contribution to St Andrew's College and its community, you will be missed.



Leavers' Assembly