Boarding at Pembroke

The year started in typical fashion for Campbell and Turner Houses with the return of the boys and girls and the ensuing excitement of catching up with old buddies or forming new friendships; or, for some, the trepidation of the beginning of boarding school life. The ‘welcome’ barbeque on the first night was a memorable evening, partly due to the near 40-degree heat, but also because it allowed families the opportunity to mingle with other boarding parents and staff on the lawns of Girton Campus. Parents were then farewelled by their offspring in the refectory, with the boarders moving off to their respective boarding houses for introductory meetings. It was great to see our returning boarders helping our ‘new’ boys and girls to settle in for term 1.

In Campbell House there is little change to our wonderful team of staff for 2011. We welcome Mr Michael Byrne to the role of Resident Teacher in the DDH Wing, as Tim Budenberg moves out of Campbell House to continue his tutor role in a non-residential capacity. We were delighted to have a visit from Mr Duncan Falconer in week 2, and are very pleased to have him spend more and more time in Campbell House as his recovery from serious illness over summer progresses.

In Turner House there have been a number of staffing changes due to two long-serving Boarding House Supervisors taking up positions elsewhere. Karina Kay, a staff member for 20 years, resigned at the end of 2010 to take up a permanent position with the School of the Air, having already spent 1 year in the role. Penny Tomkins, after almost 14 years’ service, resigned in the holidays to take up a position at Loreto College. Relief staff from 2010—Kathryn Dunstall, Sally Powell and Sue Vodic—have filled the void and are now regular faces around Turner House. We welcome Andrea Pibworth, a current Pembroke parent, who has commenced in the newly-created position of Boarding House Administration Assistant. We also have three new tutors: Alex Daniel, past boarder at Pembroke (2007) who is studying Physiotherapy; Sarah Hancock from Scotch College, who is studying Journalism; and Tess Malseed-Harris, a fourth-year medical student. Previous tutor and old scholar Katie Reid (2004) has returned while she finishes her final year of Medicine.

There’s never a dull moment in the boarding houses, and term 1 has already seen a number of events and activities. In week 1 the Year 12 boarders from Turner House went on a leadership camp involving various water sports and discussions. In week 2 all boarders travelled to Moana for the day for the annual Boarders’ Picnic and enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch and plenty of time on the beach and in the surf. Thanks go to Ms Emily Davis, Mr Andrew Quinn and our team of Overseas Assistants for putting together a fantastic quiz night in week 3. This was a highly entertaining evening with the boys and girls combining their tute groups to form teams. The first two boarders’ socials this year were held at Rostrevor and Prince Alfred Colleges, providing ample opportunity for our boarders to catch up with their counterparts from other Adelaide boarding schools. Sport is always a focus in both Turner House and Campbell House, with the majority of the boys and many of the girls participating in School sport or various district competitions. The Campbell House ‘World Cup’ soccer competition has been running on Wednesday nights this term, ably organised by some of our Year 12s. Turner House girls combined their cooking and creative skills for their ‘Masterchef’ competition and also competed in tute sporting competitions. With all this going on, it’s hard to believe there could be more—yet still to come in term 1 is an afternoon of ‘paintballing’ at Kuitpo Forest, a visit to Gilles Street Market, a camp for the Cottage girls and ‘Industry Night’ at Charlie’s Diner at Brighton.

Both Campbell and Turner House continue to buzz with a fantastic mix of events and activities to entertain boarders in between all the time spent on academic work. And all this is due to the wonderful relationships developed among members of the Pembroke boarding community.