

**Your best
is waiting
for you**



An Introduction To Boarding

St Matthew's Collegiate School

www.stmatts.school.nz







Welcome to **St Matthew's Collegiate School**



Our school has a wonderful, rich history in Wairarapa and boarding is an integral part of that. For over one hundred years we have been a leading provider of education for young women in Wairarapa, and the strong spirit of our school is felt as soon as you set foot on the grounds. There is an energy and passion evident in our girls that is infectious.

Our focus is academic excellence, as it should be, and our strength is that we empower girls to achieve academically whilst ensuring they develop into well-rounded young women.

In addition to scholarship, St Matthew's girls are brilliant sportswomen, musicians, singers, dancers, debaters, horse riders... the list goes on. We foster a busy-but-balanced lifestyle that provides girls with every opportunity to figure out where their strengths lie and what their passions are.

The Modern Face of Boarding



As the lifestyles of New Zealanders have changed, so has boarding school. St Matthew's has adapted with these changes and now offers a range of options that make boarding a practical and exciting educational option for modern Kiwi families to consider.

Whether your daughter is likely to stay at school year round, or just wants to stay at school one or two nights a year, St Matthew's is able to work with your family to create an accommodation plan that works for her. This can be incredibly useful when trying to coordinate your schedules and manage time based on your daughter's educational and extra-curricular commitments.



Why Board?



Boarding empowers students to achieve academic excellence

There is strong evidence that boarding students have an academic advantage. In addition to receiving an excellent St Matthew's education alongside their fellow day-girls, boarders are well supported in their personal study during prep time. Every day between 6.30-8pm the girls work together for an hour on their homework, class projects or study, and tutors are on hand to assist if need-be. This is particularly beneficial for the younger girls who are offered support by senior students.

But, it's not just prep-time that helps with their academic progress: it's being on-site for additional practices and tutorials; it's the diversity of experience and

opportunity the girls are exposed to; it's having house-managers, tutors, teachers and parents partnering together to monitor progress and offer support; it's the extra-care that goes into making sure all of the girls are healthy, happy and thriving that puts them in the best possible position to learn.

St Matthew's boarders thrive socially, learning to be tolerant, inclusive, responsible and resilient.

While boarding school may not be the same as 'home', St Matthew's is truly a 'home away from home' for our girls. We actively foster a positive atmosphere where girls look forward to returning to school. They are surrounded by people who genuinely care about their welfare. The boarding houses are bustling with life 24/7

and staff are in the fold with the girls joking, chatting, offering advice, and helping to coordinate their busy lives.

Most parents are surprised by how much their children flourish in boarding school. Boarding doesn't work for every student, but by-and-large, after an adjustment period, boarders gain the kind of confidence, independence and resilience that all parents want for their children.

Many of the girls who board at St Matthew's remain friends for life, and have great fun working, playing and living together. It's invaluable preparation for the next step in their lives, when they will leave the family home and go on to live their own lives independently.

Parents and boarders are encouraged to remain in frequent

contact and supported to do so, as parents are still very much the most important figure in all boarders' lives. Parents often find the adjustment to week-day life without their children difficult too, but it's often the realisation that they've experienced an increase in quality time spent with their child as a result of boarding that makes the difference; Because homework and other chores like laundry and room cleaning are mostly completed during the week, students and their families often feel as though they have more free time together as a family during weekends.


Structure and discipline

The old-fashioned notions many people have about boarding school being punitive, cold and isolated couldn't be further from the reality of a modern boarding school! Our number one aim









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is to help parents ensure their daughters are happy, and part of this involves proactively building an environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect; all people can feel emotionally and physically safe; we respect and tolerate each other's differences and; we accept responsibility for our own actions. In order to achieve this there are rules and standards that all girls at St Matthew's are held accountable to, but they're enforced in the spirit of accountability and respect rather than adherence to a set of rigid rules or formalities. The structure and self-discipline boarders learn by taking responsibility for their actions, contributing to house-life and activities, and working hard in their studies sets them up for life.

Convenience

Imagine not having to do evening pick-ups after dance or music lessons, or worry about dinner with different family members coming and going on different schedules? Life can be so busy, and boarding, whether casual, part or full-time is a great way of easing the pressure on family life.

Some boarders will be at St Matthew's out of necessity because their home is a long way from the nearest school. Others will be here because their parents recognised how much their daughter stood to gain from living and learning in such a positive environment.

For many parents, knowing their daughter has someone there to help her plan and manage her

school-work, extra-curricular activities and social life during the busy working week gives them immense peace of mind.

Flexibility

Did know your child doesn't have to board full-time? Flexi-boarders pay between \$45 and \$66.50 per night for up to 100 nights per year. When you take into account the cost of transport and food for girls who sometimes need to stay at school late or start early, is a very affordable and convenient option. Sometimes girls who live within a reasonable distance of school still choose to stay overnight if their parents need to go away or work late, or if they have an evening rehearsal or event to attend at school. Many parents in Wairarapa commute to work in the Hutt Valley or Wellington, and on the odd occasion they'll be late or need to spend the night over the hill so

flexi-boarding is a great option.

Some might be a little more forward thinking and make boarding a part of their schedule, planning to spend one or more nights at school every week for the duration of their involvement in the school production, winter sport or other regular evening activities.

A majority of permanent boarders go home for the weekends, although some stay and only return home during compulsory exeat weekends and holidays. These boarders often stay with friends who are day-girls, or ask for the school to arrange for a homestay during an exeat weekend or break if returning home is impractical. There are always many options available and we encourage you to contact the Dean of Boarding, Karen Lapslie for more information.





Key Facts and Information



Cost

Boarding dues at St Matthew's compares favourably to other state, private and integrated schools in the region and nationwide, and when compared with the total cost of providing for a child at home, they are very reasonable. Over six years ago the IRD estimated that the average cost per year of raising a child was \$14,000, not including private school dues.

In 2015, boarding cost \$11,410 in addition to tuition dues.

Payments are made monthly, covering a ten month boarding period during the school year.

In 2015, the total annual dues for tuition and board come to \$17,580 for girls in years 7-11 and \$17,810 for girls in year 12 or 13.

Based on a survey of 23 state, private and integrated schools nationwide, the average cost of boarding in 2015 was 12,000 per year (not including tuition). The highest cost was \$14,590 and the lowest \$8500.

More information about St Matthew's dues and payments is available on our website on the 'Payments' page.

Transport

There is fantastic transport available to and from St Matthew's, making it possible for most girls to easily travel home for the weekends and holidays. Boarding staff shuttle girls to and from the bus and train stations in Masterton, and will take care of purchasing train tickets for the girls.





Boarders can book buses home for the weekend at the school office to most destinations in neighbouring regions, and standard school buses cater for boarders who live locally in Wairarapa.

If your daughter has extra-curricular activities outside school, we will transport them at no extra cost to you. Every day our shuttles transport girls to all manner of activities including dancing and swimming lessons, and sports practices and games. Our procedures ensure that girls are safe whenever they leave the school grounds and we know where they are.

Facilities

St Matthew's Collegiate School has two boarding houses, Main House and Hampton House, which house junior and senior girls respectively.

Main House

Main House accommodates approximately 85 girls from Year 7 to Year 11. Main House is centrally located in the school next to the chapel and music suite and close to the classrooms, swimming pool and sports fields. It houses the school dining room and is a hive of activity during the day and a peaceful haven at night.

In years 7 and 8, the girls occupy dormitories divided into cubicles, and double or triple rooms. Older girls are allocated to dormitories that are split into small rooms. Modern, comfortable study and common rooms are provided for each year group. Main House recently underwent extensive earthquake strengthening works and has been beautifully renovated during that process.

Two full-time house managers and four part-time staff know all the girls and are available to supervise and assist students 24 hours a day.

Hampton House

Senior boarders (years 12 and 13) live in Hampton House. Purpose built in 1999, Hampton House houses 42 students in individual rooms. Each bedroom has a desk, bed, lockable cupboard, storage space and a heated towel rail. For their final two years at St Matthew's, boarders have an environment that provides a transition between boarding school and a flatting situation that many students move on to.

Hampton House has two interconnecting wings, each with its own separate common room with cooking, bathroom and laundry facilities. Outdoor areas for relaxing and studying add to the modern, functional and attractive environment of Hampton House.

Hampton House has a dedicated senior full-time house manager and an assistant full-time house

manager. One house manager always stays in the house overnight.

Security

Stringent security systems and procedures ensure that girls are safe and accounted for 24 hours a day.

Structure

Boarders in years 7 to 11 attend evening prep Monday to Thursday, supervised by staff and senior pupils. During the week and on Saturday boarders compete in local sports fixtures.

Night time routines and bedtimes are strictly followed, enabling all girls to get the rest they need.

Meals

Nutritious daily meals are provided with all boarders dining together for breakfast and dinner. The current menu (a six week rotation) is available on the school website. Boarders are joined by the day girls for lunch. Morning and afternoon teas are also provided for boarders in years 7 to 11, and senior girls have facilities to make their own.





How do I find out more?



If you'd like to find out more about the variety of boarding options available to your child at St Matthew's, we encourage you to visit:

www.stmatts.school.nz/boarding.

Online you'll find further information about boarding, including our '**Boarding Handbook**', a '**Boarder's Survival Guide**', with information

for prospective boarders, and a 'Boarding Fact Sheet' for all the essential information in a condensed format you can stick to your fridge.

If you'd like any of these resources sent to you in the post, you can either email us via the website, or call the school and ask for them to be sent to you in the post.

We also welcome you to call the school any time and make an appointment to come and visit, and we will happily show you through the grounds and introduce you to key staff or arrange a sleepover for your daughter.

Please feel free to contact us any time with any queries.



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