

STAR BOARD

SMCS

TRINITY SCHOOLS
ST MATTHEW'S

Term Three, Week Five

Principal's Message



Kia ora koutou,

Twelve years on, many of you will have noticed that these newsletters often carry more than just updates — they are a chance for me to reflect on our values, and to gently remind us all of the small, everyday ways we can take care of ourselves and one another.

I do not share these thoughts because I believe I have all the answers — far from it. I share them from a place of care, connection, and a deep belief in the strength of this community when we look after each other.

Real Commitment/Takohanga means showing up — not just when it is fun

It is easy to be present when things are exciting — sports games, special events, shared meals, or social moments. These things matter. They bring us joy and connection and help us feel like part of something.

But the real measure of commitment is how we show up when it is **not** fun, or we are tired.

The early mornings. The clean-ups. The quiet moments when no one is watching. The activities we might not enjoy as much. If we only show up when it suits us, we send the message: “I’ll take the benefits, but not the responsibilities.”

That is not what builds trust. It is not what builds strong teams, strong friendships, or strong character. When we consistently turn up — through the highs and lows — we are not just showing up for others, we are showing up for ourselves.

Carrying what is not yours?

Sometimes, when others do not follow through, we feel pressure to step in and cover for them — to pick up the slack so the group still looks good or things do not fall apart.

While that comes from a place of care, it is not always the right move. Picking up after others repeatedly sends the message that it is okay not to contribute fully. Occasionally, it can create quiet resentment and uneven expectations. While it protects image, not integrity.

What is better then? Leading by example and raising the bar can work so that instead of silently fixing things: encourage others to take responsibility for their role, speak up kindly when something is not working, focus on doing your part well — and consistently, and let natural consequences teach others what accountability looks like.

Strong communities do not rely on a few people to carry the weight. They grow stronger when everyone shares the load, shows up, and takes ownership.

I guess to our ākongā I am wanting them to understand that one does not need to be perfect, but you do need to be present. When you commit to something, follow through — not just for others, but for your own growth and pride. To our whanau, thank you for helping reinforce these values. Your support helps our young people understand that consistency, accountability, and integrity matter — in school, at home, and in life.

Why we go to Chapel

Of course, I would deliver this to the students as a poem in an Assembly- this Wednesdays in fact. I wanted to share it with our community as well.

By Someone Who's Been There, Too

You're tired, you're busy, your to-do list's insane,
You've got DGE exams, sports and performances, and stress on the brain.
And now – *oh, joy!* – here's your weekly direction:
“Tuesday Thursday morning Chapel!” It's time for reflection.

“But WHY must we go?” you dramatically sigh,
“Is this to convert us?” you squint with one eye.
You whisper to mates in a holy-ish row,
Trying hard not to let your eyerolls show.

But Chapel's not here to recruit or conform,
It's part of a mission: to help you **TRANSFORM**.
Not into a nun (don't panic, you are fine!)
But into someone who *knows her own spine*.

You see, in that Chapel – beneath all the songs,
The candles, the echoes, the prayers that seem long –
There's something quite sneaky, a powerful thread:
A space to ask questions that buzz in your head.

Like *what really matters? And who will I be?*
And *how do I act when the world's judging me?*
The quiet, the stories, the lessons, the pause—
They sharpen your compass, they shape your cause.

It's not about preaching or ticking a box,
Or giving you halos and holy socks.
It's carving out time in a calendar loud,
To think, feel, and breathe while *not* in a crowd.

And **RESPECT**? That's not just a rule on a wall,
It's how you stand up and how you don't fall.
It's hearing a view that's not yours, and still
Letting it sit there, not crushing its will.

You'll meet people later with very strong views,
You'll argue with landlords and bosses and news.
And Chapel? It's training. For grace under fire—
The strength to speak truth without fueling a **bonfire**.





So bring your full self (**waiho ngā kai**),
Sit tall in your blazer, let distractions lie.
Whakarongo, whakaaro – don't rush to agree,
There's power in pausing and just letting *be*.

You might not have chosen it — still, you are here,
So open your mind, not just one ear.
It's not just tradition—it's building your way,
For all that comes next, past the end of school days.

Strike Day Wednesday 20 August

Please read the letter regarding the teachers' strike sent this week. Any updates pertaining to this will be sent in a timely fashion.

Thank You

As the winter sports season draws to a close and Tournament Week approaches, it feels like the right moment to say a heartfelt thank you.

To the many ākonga (students), whānau, and staff who have stepped up to support, coach, manage, cheer, drive, and simply be there — your contribution has been invaluable.

Some might say we are a small school — and that is true, by design. But when you look at the incredible support that pours out from our community, it is clear: St Matthew's has the heart and strength of a continent.

Thank you for showing up, backing our teams, and living out the spirit of togetherness that defines who we are.

Have a great and safe weekend and be your best selves

Ngā Mihi



Kia Ora Koutou.

Here are some more photos of our NZ Boarding Schools Week celebrations.

At the start of last week our amazing caterers provided hot chips for afternoon tea from the Caterplus food truck for all boarders and you can see from this photo what a hit that was!

I particularly love the look on the daygirl faces in this photo... hopefully the boarders shared at least some of their chips.



Below: During the week we had a staff vs Year 13 table tennis competition in the dining room. Some of our boarding staff are pretty good at table tennis but Mrs Jones is the most competitive, as I think she went on to win all matches.

As mentioned to all boarding families, the boarding houses will remain open with the strike action on Wednesday. We are planning a sleep in, followed by brunch and boarders can choose whether they want to stay and get on top of their school work, or get out and about. Can those girls staying in please return with their swimming kit after the weekend if possible. Thank you. More detail about the plan for Wednesday will be provided at the start of next week.

Please note that if your daughter chooses not to be in boarding on either Tuesday or Wednesday night and she usually would be, we ask that you please submit an Orah pass to reflect this.

Have a fabulous weekend.

Ngā mihi.

Jo

Boarding Note



What's on the menu this week?



Launch the Camera App and aim your camera at the QR Code to scan it.



1st XI Hockey Final



The Hockey Intercity final was a great game. We lost a hard fought exciting final against PNGHS 2-1. Our people can be very proud.

St Matthew's has been in this competition for six years so far and in that time they have made the finals five times! (three wins and two 2nd's). This is the best record of any school in the competition. Be proud.

Sport Results T3 Wk4

Football

SMS 1st XI vs St Marys: 3-1 win to SMS

SMS Stars- BYE

SMS Saints vs Solway College 1st XI: 6-0 to Solway

SMS Strikers vs Kuranui Maroon: 3-1 win to SMS

SMS Primary Ferns vs Lakeview: 4-1 to Lakeview

Rifle Shooting

Elizabeth Andrews: 88.1

Lilly Boggs: 88.1

Audrey Hall: 93.1 and 88.0

Grace Jaspers: 83.0

Amy Kuipers: 87.1

Eva MacManus: 54.0

Charlotte Macauley: 88.1 and 88.4

Tess Mckenzie: 77.1

Isabelle Olds: 71.0

Katya Shi: 77.1

Katherine Squires: 88.2

Emily Wasson: 75.0

Netball

SMS Snr A vs WC Old Girls: 36-49 to WC Old Girls

SMS Development vs Pioneer: 17-22 to SMS

SMS Yr 13 Social vs SMS Yr 12 Social: 33-8 to SMS

SMS Snr Stars vs SMS Silver: 15-12 to SMS

SMS Jnr Green vs KC Development: 12-13 to SMS

SMS 11's vs WC Jnr Red: 16-3 to SMS

SMS Jnr Pink vs Chanel Swifts: 10-5 to SMS

SMS Jnr Black vs Mākoura Development: 18-8 to SMS

Hockey

SMS Seniors vs Development: 3-1 to SMS Seniors

SMS Stars vs WaiCol Blue: 3-1 to SMS

SMS 1st XI vs Whanganui Collegiate: 2-1 win

SMS Primary Gold vs Gladdy Giants: 6-3 to Gladdy

Stay 'Connected'
With our School App!

Simply Download 'SchoolappsNZ' from the Google Play or App Store & search your school once installed.

It's been a great Day One at Pent with the following results

Senior Pent

Hockey

9-0 win over Nga Tawa
7-0 win over Samuel Marsden

Netball

44-8 win over Nga Tawa
33-21 win over Woodford House

Football

4-0 loss to Woodford House
2-1 loss to Iona



Day Two Results

Football

8-0 win against Nga Tawa
4-1 loss to Samuel Marsden

Hockey

2-0 win against Woodford House
4-2 loss to Iona College

Netball

34-23 loss to Iona College



Most Valuable players from the tournament

Hockey MVP – Olivia Fenwick

Netball MVP – Maia Svenson

Football MVP – Morgan Dudley



Kim's Way Night Refuge

As part of a Year 12 health project Eva Shackel, Sienna Chu, Eva Diamond (absent: Vicky Wu) invited Kim's Way night Refuge co-founder Stella Lennox and Board member Joe Stewart to talk at our assembly this morning.

The intention today was to raise awareness. "Kim's Way" Night Refuge in Masterton is dedicated to Kim McKinley who was passionate about caring for homeless people & animals in Masterton. Kim's Way provides a bed plus an evening meal & breakfast for Masterton's extreme homeless people.

Students were then encouraged to 'Do Something' by bringing in personal hygiene products for the refuge, as we are a community that stands up to help those in need.

Around School



Matharapa

Congratulations to our three Yr 10 students, Zena Cole, Zoe Crout and Rosanna Heaton, who won one of the sections in their Matharapa Competition on Wednesday mahi nui



Our Year 7's teams competing at Matharapa.

Georgia Stillaman, Zara Jorgensen, Briella Benkie, Isabella Paton-Sentch, Lilah Summers, Sophia Toswill, Tayla Clarke, Isabel Watson and Rosie Falloon



Karaitianatanga/Christianity Alive

Our Mark of Mission for Week 5 is Transform – to transform unjust structures of society; to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. I would like to focus on the peace and reconciliation part. The word “forgiveness” is not one that is used anywhere much apart from the church. It is not a concept that many people seem to value, as we are taught to stand up for ourselves and if someone wrongs us, then we write them off and have nothing to do with them. However, I think that it can be misunderstood. Forgiveness is not so much for the person being forgiven, it is more for the one doing the forgiving.

Jesus speaks about the “Kingdom of Heaven” a lot in His teachings. This can be thought of as a metaphorical or spiritual kingdom, one that encompasses our inner selves and what we bring to the collective well-being of the world. Forgiveness releases our inner self from feelings of hatred and bitterness, cortisol inducing feelings that make us unwell and instead releases serotonin. When we let go of the hurts against us, we do better and we build the kingdom of heaven inside ourselves, thus enabling us to walk our journey with kindness and love, building the kingdom of heaven outside ourselves. When Jesus was asked by Peter how many times we should forgive, Jesus gave him a number that meant – always!

Matthew 18:21-34

21 Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”

22 “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”

21 Katahi ka haere a Pita ki a ia, ka mea, E te Ariki, kia hia nga haranga o toku teina ki ahau, me taku whakarere noa iho i tona hara? kia whitu?

22 Ka mea a Ihu ki a ia, E kore ahau e mea ki a koe, Kia whitu: engari, Kia whitu tekau whitu.

Rev. Wendy



Welcome to our new staff member— Joanna Sacké



My family and I emigrated from South Africa six years ago. We began our journey in Cambridge where I took up a teaching position in Hamilton for three years. Thereafter, we moved to the Wairarapa, where I joined the Maths Department at Kuranui College. I have two daughters who are currently busy with their tertiary studies. Our family is happiest when we are outdoors, enjoying sport and beach holidays. I am very excited to be joining the St Matthew’s staff, and I am looking forward to getting to know the girls and the wider St. Matthew’s community.





Ko tō reo. Ko tō kura. Your voice. Your School.

**The person being nominated and the nominator,
must be students from year 9 or above.**



**Returning officer:
Haley Feringa-Howley
Principal's PA**

**NOMINATIONS are OPEN to
become a Student Board Member**

SMOGA Grant Now Open!

Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship

Applications are now open for the Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship, available to Year 13 students intending to study Commerce at tertiary level. This prestigious scholarship offers \$5,000 in funding over two years, as well as mentorship from Gretchen Williamson — a leading financial adviser and St Matthew's Old Girl. Gretchen is passionate about supporting young women into careers in finance and investment. This scholarship is part of her ten-year commitment to helping close the wealth gap for women through education and opportunity.

Applications close on **24 October 2025**, with the recipient announced at Prizegiving in December.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://forms.gle/adGVwP9CMqPqpdvg7>



Key Dates

- Tuesday 19th August- InterCol Speech Competition
- Monday 25th August- Start of Tournament Week
- Friday 29th August - Daffodil Day
- Saturday 30th August- Exeat Weekend
- Sunday 31st August - Sheppard House Chapel

2025 Term Dates

Term One - Monday 27th January to Friday 11 April

Term Two - Monday 28th April to Friday 27th June

Term Three - Monday 14th July to Friday 19th September

Term Four - Monday 6th October to Saturday 6 December



[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[School Notices](#)

2026 Senior College Subject Selection Information Evening

RATHKEALE COLLEGE DINING HALL
FRIDAY 15 AUGUST, 3.30PM TO 5.30PM

All Yr11 and 12 Students, and their parents are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of the evening is to provide information about subjects which will be offered at Senior College in 2026.

Subject displays and staff will be present to answer any questions.

Careers information will be available and personnel from some tertiary institutions will be present.



SCHOOL HOUSE
1925 - 2025
100 YEARS of HERITAGE



TRINITY SCHOOLS
RATHKEALE
COLLEGE

ORIGINAL SCHOOL HOUSE
WELSH SLATE ROOF TILE

A small number of original Welsh slate roof tiles were salvaged when School House was reroofed some years ago.

For \$100, you can own a piece of history and art for your home or a memento for your child.

The tile is 500mm x 250mm and the design is laser etched with a choice of portrait or landscape orientation.

All proceeds will be for the landscaping works outside School House.

Contact the office: 06 370 0175 or
office@rathkeale.school.nz
to secure your piece of art.

Daffodil Day is the Cancer Society's most important fundraising event. It helps support New Zealanders living with cancer by funding research, support services, nurses, and transportation to treatment.



What's Happening at SMCS

- Yellow accessories day - On Friday, Week 7 (29th August), everyone will be expected to wear a yellow accessory.
- Every student at St Matthew's will be asked to bring \$5 as a donation. Please take this to the office, where your \$5 donation will be recorded by your name. You have until Friday, August 29, to do this.
- Bake Sales your year group has been set a date to bring baked goods that will be sold during morning tea and lunch. If you're keen to organise your year group's bake sale, email Amelia Didsbury. (More info to come)
yr7/8 - 7th Aug, yr9 - 14th Aug, yr10 - 21st Aug, yr11 - 28th Aug.

As a school, let's get behind this. Every dollar raised helps fund treatments, supplies, free support services for families and hope for the future.



Absence and Signing In and Out

Arriving Late

If you are late for any reason you must report to the school office. A reason for your lateness must be provided by a parent by email, note or by phone.

Sickness During School Time

If you are not well during class time, please inform your teacher and you will be released to go to the office to sign out to the sick bay, and, if parents need to be contacted to collect their daughter, a staff member in the boarding house will make the phone call. A parent must come to the boarding office to sign you out. If you are sent to the school sickbay, and you return to school you must sign in.

Absence

If you are unable to come to school your parent/caregiver must phone the school in the morning or use the school app. If you are absent for a prolonged period of time, (more than 3 days) a medical certificate must be provided.

Itinerant Lessons

Please report to the office when you are attending a lesson (music/speech and drama) to sign out, and return to the office after your lesson to sign in.

Special Leave/Appointments

Students are required at school during term time. If there is a reason why you cannot attend school for other than health reasons you must apply for special leave. Please collect a pink form from the office. This form goes to the principal for consideration. St Matthew's puts a high value on your time in the classroom and appointments need to be made out of school time to avoid disruption. If you do have an appointment during the day, a parent will need to contact the office and you will need to sign out at the office before you leave, and return to the office after your appointment to sign in.

Special Leave also applies if you will miss sport.



WAIRARAPA INTERCOLLEGIATE SPEECH COMPETITION

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST
6 P M
ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE HALL



At the conclusion of the speeches, please join us for a light supper in the hall foyer. Prizegiving will follow.

Epiphany Church AROUND THE WORLD QUIZ NIGHT



Hadlow School Hall
Saturday 6th September

Doors open 6.00pm, quiz begins 6.30pm
\$30 pp or \$240 per team (maximum of 8)
Dinner included
Cash bar, raffles, auction
Costumes are encouraged. R18 event.

Book your team of 6-8 using this link
<https://forms.office.com/r/AJSrjT1fz>

MASTERTON DISTRICT BRASS PRESENTS

BOLD AS BRASS

FEAT. MASTERTON JUNIOR BAND + GUESTS

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST • 3PM
ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH

ENTRY BY KOHA • SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BAND
WWW.MASTERTONBRASS.COM



Pasifika
O WAIRARAPA
TRUST

Yr7 – Yr13

PASIFIKA STUDY CENTRE
WEDNESDAYS

from 330pm - 5pm!
23 Intermediate Street



Professional
Assistance
provided

Snacks
Provided !!



Homework
to catch up on!
Need Help!



Contact: 0800 727 924
www.pw.org.nz




Pasifika
CAREERS
EVENING

Wednesday 24 September
5:30pm - 7:30pm | Rutherford House Foyer
Pipitea campus | 33 Bunny Street, Pipitea

- Open to all – especially Pasifika students (high school & tertiary) and families
- Meet Pasifika professionals from a range of careers
- Explore career and study pathways
- Free entry + light refreshments
- Please RSVP via the form!

More information: pasifika-events@vuw.ac.nz | 022 563 6974 (Fabie) | 022 655 2685 (Mela)



Pukaha Wildlife Centre

Fundraiser

Brought to you by
Lumino Masterton

QUIZ
NIGHT

THUR 11 SEPT

6pm

\$210 per table (Max. Team of 6)

Plenty of Nibbles provided

Bar available

Please contact 06 377 4989

Gold coin Answers & Raffles Available

Masterton Club
98 Chapel St. Masterton

MARTINBOROUGH MUSIC FESTIVAL

19 SEPTEMBER – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025

MARTINBOROUGH TOWN HALL
WWW.MARTINBOROUGHMUSICFESTIVAL.CO.NZ



MARTINBOROUGH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025
'Bringing the world to Martinborough'

SPECIAL \$15 Student prices

This year's Festival takes place over the weekend of **19-21 September** at the Martinborough Town Hall. We're presenting a fabulous line-up of musicians coming from all over the world to play chamber music by many different composers [MMF Programme](#)

This year we are delighted to offer students (aged 18 and under) specially priced tickets @ \$15 per concert.

Artistic directors **Wilma Smith** and **Donald Armstrong** will be joined by artists coming from Germany, Australia and Russia (via the UK), in a four-concert programme that includes music from Australia, Hungary, France, the US, Russia, Poland, Czechia and Argentina.

Sensational violinist **Natalia Lomeiko** and violist **Yuri Zhislin** will join Melbourne-based violist **Caroline Henbest** and returning artists, cellists **Mathias Balzat** and **Ashley Brown**. Celebrated pianist **Jian Liu**, will also be performing, along with classical saxophonist **Simon Brew**.

The festival's opening concert on Friday 19th features the virtuoso qualities of our visiting artists. Yuri and Matthias will join for a searing performance of Kodály's Duo, followed by Natalia and star pianist Jian Liu in the Chausson Concert for Violin, Piano and String Quartet.

Other highlights include Bach's Goldberg Variations, (one of Natalia and Yuri's favourite works) - Sat 20th 2pm, the Shostakovich Piano Quintet and Dvořák Sextet - Sat 20th 7.30pm and a special Festival commission from New Zealand composer, Louise Webster on Sunday 21st at 2pm.

As there are only a limited number of \$15 tickets available per concert, it is essential to book early - Book at iTicket - [MMF 2025 Bookings](#)

Watch these inspiring musicians bring this wonderful music to life!

Overseas Service and Immersion Programs for High School Students

These programs are designed for students in years 11, 12 and 13. They run in the mid-year break and over our summer holidays and are ideal for individuals or groups of friends.

The programs include:

[Community Work and Early Years Development](#)

[Conservation Work](#)

[Human Rights and Social Justice](#)



The programs run in the mid-year break as well as our summer in destinations such as [Fiji](#), [Cambodia](#), and [Nepal](#) as well as new destinations for us in [France](#) and [Spain](#).

Projects Abroad has been running these programs for over 15 years. They are very popular with students from across New Zealand, Australia, Europe and North America.

The students will be immersed in a fascinating new culture and learn much about the world and themselves within a group of like-minded students who will become great friends.

Projects Abroad provides full [24/7 supervision and care](#). Through our permanent local teams and the network of placements and hosts, we offer a welcoming and supportive environment.

[Webinar](#)

We will also be running a free webinar on the evening of **Tuesday 26 August**. Details and [registration on this link](#).