

# STAR BOARD

SMCS



TRINITY SCHOOLS  
ST MATTHEW'S

Term Four, Week One

## Principal's Message



**Kia ora koutou,**

I hope the holiday break was kind to you. They seem to pass quickly, but I did manage to catch up on school admin — and even attempted a wardrobe cull. I am not sure why I bother; all it really does is create space for replacements! Still, I will focus on the altruism of recycling clothes and the idea that someone else may enjoy what I once did. That makes me feel better about it.

### Industrial Action

Since Term 3, PPTA has been engaged in ongoing negotiations. Unofficially, I want to let you know that industrial action may begin as early as next week. Schools will be informed of the ballot outcome on Saturday, 11 October.

If the proposed actions go ahead, strike notices will be issued within the three-day notice period required under the Education and Training Act 2020. If that notice period changes, we will be advised.

Due to pay deductions for partial strikes, schools will receive daily updates. If the full set of strike actions proceeds, the timeline will look like this:

Strike action	Formal notice	Strike takes place
Partial strike rostering/relief ban Y7&9	11 October	14 October
Partial strike rostering/relief ban Y8&10	12 October	15 October
Partial strike rostering/relief ban Y11&12	13 October	16 October
Partial strike rostering/relief ban Y13	14 October	17 October
Full strike - full day	20 October	23 October
Partial strike - extracurricular ban	26 October	29 October
Full strike – two hours	2 November	5 November

On full strike days, school will remain open with **no formal instruction** and **limited supervision**. Boarding houses will remain open.

### Derived Grade Exams (DGEs)

We have hit the ground running in Term 4 — Years 11, 12, and 13 are already into their **Derived Grade Exams**.

Students were encouraged to use some of their break to study. As schools, parents, and caregivers, we have all reminded our rangatahi to treat these exams seriously and prepare well.

## What Are Derived Grades?

Derived grades are based on authentic, standard-specific evidence — like formal assessments — and may be used when students:

- Are too unwell or injured to sit an external exam,
- Experience a significant personal event,
- Have a sudden worsening of a chronic illness,

Represent New Zealand at a national-level event.

If students are granted a derived grade and still sit the exam, they receive the higher of the two grades.

## Are These Just “Mock Exams”?

Not quite. While “mock exams” is a common term, it downplays the importance of these assessments. DGEs are a crucial part of the NCEA system — they may directly impact final results. They are not optional or low stakes.

## Mental Health Awareness Week

This week the Wednesday theme for Mental Health Awareness Week was “**Me Kori Tonu – Be Active.**” At assembly, I took on the ‘active’ component to start my message with a more interactive approach with a simple reflection exercise called “**Stay or Step.**”

I asked students to stand if the following statements felt true:

- “I’ve helped a friend through something tough.”
- “I’ve stayed silent when I probably should have spoken up.”
- “I’ve made a mistake and needed help.”
- “I want to finish the year proud of how I treated others.”

“I know I can make a difference in someone else’s week.”

Afterwards, I reminded them that what matters most is what they choose to do **next**. Then I read this story to them:



## “Pooh Gets Stuck (Again): A Story About Commitment and Speaking Up”

One fine day in the Hundred Acre Wood, Pooh Bear woke up feeling a little... thoughtful. He sat on the edge of his bed and said, “I wonder what’s for breakfast?” — which, for Pooh, is a very deep and meaningful question.

So he wandered over to Rabbit’s house, thinking he might just stop in for a “small smackerel” of something sweet. But one smackerel turned into another. And another. And then a whole pot. And then six more, plus something suspiciously labelled “Condensed Milk (for Emergencies).”

After this entirely accidental feast, Pooh stood up, patted his very round tummy, and said, “Time to go.” He turned to leave through Rabbit’s front door — and got *stuck*. Not just a little stuck. Well and truly, awkwardly, bottom-in-the-air stuck.

Now, Rabbit did not take this well. He marched back and forth muttering things like, “Always my house,” and “Why me?” Eventually he hung a tea towel over Pooh’s behind so he didn’t have to look at it.

But here’s where it gets interesting.

Rabbit could have left it. But instead, he *told* someone. He asked for help.

Soon, Christopher Robin arrived, followed by Piglet (a little nervous), Eeyore (a lot gloomy), and Owl (who brought a very long speech but no real solutions). Together, they made a plan.

They pulled (gently), they encouraged Pooh, and they stayed committed — even when it was uncomfortable, slow, and honestly a bit ridiculous.

Eventually, Pooh popped out (with a loud “Oof!”), and everyone cheered.



Why share this?

Because Term 4 is when things can get stuck. Behaviour slips. Pressure builds. Sometimes someone ends up in a situation they cannot get out of on their own.

Our **Focus Mark of Mission – Tell** reminds us: it is not about dobbing, it is about speaking up when something is not right. Our **Focus Value – Commitment** is about staying the course. Showing up. Following through — even when no one is watching.

**To Reflect:**

- Who in your world might be a bit “stuck” right now?
- Can you support, encourage, or gently challenge someone this week?

Are you living out our school values — helping others feel safe, respected, and included?

Let’s finish the year strong. Be the friend who tells when it matters. Stay committed — to each other and to your best self.

**Ngā mihi,**



## Certificate of Appreciation

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

*St Matthew's Collegiate*

In recognition and appreciation of your valued support and participation in Daffodil Day 2025.

Your fundraising efforts have contributed to the work of the Wairarapa Cancer Society, helping to provide free support to those affected by cancer in our community

Together, we bring hope and care to those who need it most.



Amber Arkell  
General Manager  
Wairarapa Cancer Society

We just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for getting behind Daffodil Day 2025 and helping to turn your school yellow in support of people affected by cancer.

We’ve been so impressed by the creativity, enthusiasm, and generosity shown by your ākonga and kaiako — your fundraising efforts truly make a difference. The funds raised here in the Wairarapa help us provide vital support services, counselling, transport to treatment, and health promotion across our community.

We’ve attached a Certificate of Appreciation to acknowledge your wonderful contribution. Please share it proudly with your students and staff — they’ve earned it!

We couldn’t continue the work we do without the kindness and support of schools like yours. Thank you for standing with us and helping to bring hope to those facing cancer in our community.

We look forward to your continuing support and to working with you again in the future — together we can make a real difference.

Noho ora mai

Helen

On behalf of the Wairarapa Cancer Society Team

# Boarding Note

Kia Ora Koutou.

A very warm welcome back to all boarders for the final term for 2025! As always it is fabulous to see you and your families pouring in the doors with arms full of your belongings ready to set up your rooms, and catch up with your peers.

This week has been relatively quiet with our Year 11-13 girls focusing on their Derived Grade Exams. Boarding staff have been very impressed with the way boarders have followed the study schedule in both houses. Thank you girls and thank you to our younger boarders for your consideration of others during exam time.

It is great to have the pool up and running once again. Although the weather has not been overly tropical, there are always a few keen swimmers. Below Lilah, Louisa and Bella enjoying the heated pool.

This term we are excited to see another renovation project started in the Amelia Earhart Year 11 Dorm. As this dorm can be blocked off from other areas of boarding, the work has begun and the carpet has been removed. Here are a few “before” photos. I look forward to showing you the completed project next month.

A reminder to our boarding families that Labour Weekend is the only exeat for Term 4. The boarding houses will close on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm and at this stage will reopen from 6pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Have a great weekend.  
Jo



A promotional graphic for Cater Plus. It features the Cater Plus logo at the top. Below it, the text reads "What's on the menu this week?". A QR code is provided for scanning. Below the QR code, it says "Launch the Camera App and aim your camera at the QR Code to scan it." There is also a small logo for the school at the bottom right of the graphic. To the left, a hand is shown holding a smartphone displaying a food menu.



# Sports Board

VERSION 1

## St Matthew's Collegiate Weekly Sports Sheet Term 4 Week 2

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>Swimming Pool Open at Lunch</u> Swimming Pool open 4pm – 4.40pm</p> <p><u>Swim Group</u> 3.30-4.30pm</p> <p><u>Volleyball @ Makoura College Gym</u> SMS Queens V WC Gold 3.40pm court 3 Boarding house minivan to depart at 3.20pm and pick up at 4.10pm</p> <p>SMS Superstars V WC Blue 4.55pm court Boarding house minivan to depart at 4.35 and pick up at 5.25pm</p> <p><u>Tennis Lessons</u> Kowhai 3.50-4.30pm Regional 3 teams 4.30-5.30pm Lessons 3.20-3.50pm: Brennah, Lily B, Sasha, Abbey U</p> <p><u>Primary/Yr 9 Cricket Nets Session</u> 3.30-6pm- pop along anytime within this time</p> <p><u>Fitness Gym</u> 3.20pm-4.45pm *Year 10-13s only*</p>	<p><u>Swimming Pool Open at Lunch</u></p> <p><u>Komarohi</u> 3:30pm-4:30pm @SMS gym</p> <p><u>Fun Fitness Games for yr 7-10's</u> <b>3.45pm – 4.30pm @ Lazarus/pool</b> <b>*Wear active wear – bring togs*</b></p> <p><u>Fitness Gym</u> 3.20pm-4.45pm *Year 10-13s only*</p>	<p><u>Swimming Pool Open at Lunch</u></p> <p><u>JNR Dance Troupe</u> Lunchtime @Lazarus</p> <p><u>Primary Cricket Training in the gym</u> 1:10pm-1:50pm (lunch time)</p> <p><u>1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket training @ Rathkeale</u> HPC Van to depart at 3.20pm</p> <p><u>Touch Rugby Tuis Training</u> 3.15-4.30pm SMS Field</p> <p><u>Fitness Gym</u> 3.20pm-4.45pm *Year 10-13s only*</p>	<p><u>Swimming Pool Open at Lunch</u></p> <p><u>Primary Touch Rugby Training @ Lunchtime</u></p> <p><u>Senior Dance Troupe</u> Afterschool @Lazarus</p> <p><u>Komarohi</u> 3:30pm-4:30pm @SMS gym</p> <p><u>Tennis Lessons</u> Kea and Kiwikiwi 3.15-4pm Private Lessons Isabelle Olds, Ella Brader 4-4.30pm Bella Wallace and Georgla Greenham 4.30pm – 5pm</p> <p><u>Fitness Gym</u> 3.20pm-4.45pm *Year 10-13s only*</p> <p><u>Primary Touch Rugby Games @ Red Star</u> Yr 7s Vs Kura Rangitahi 6pm Boarding house minivan to depart at 5.30pm and pick up at 6.45pm Yr 8s Vs Wainuioru Taniwha 6.30pm Boarding house minivan to depart at 6pm and pick up at 7.15pm</p> <p><u>Secondary Touch Rugby Games @ Makoura College</u> SMS Tuis V KC Girls maroon 4.15pm boarding house minivan to depart at 3.30pm and pick up at 5pm</p> <p>SMS Robins V Chanel 2 4.55pm Boarding house minivan to depart at 4.15pm and pick up at 5.30pm</p>	<p><u>Swimming Pool Open at Lunch</u></p> <p><u>Pickleball – anyone welcome</u> 1:20pm-1:50pm @SMS gym</p> <p><u>Interclub Tennis</u> SMS Kowhai vs Waicol Yellow 3.30pm @ Masterton Tennis Centre, Courts 1, 2, &amp; 3</p> <p>SMS Kea vs SMS Kiwikiwi 3.30pm @ SMS Tennis Courts, Courts 1, 3, &amp; 4</p> <p><u>Fitness Gym - closed</u></p>	

**Blue highlight** – Info tbc

## Yr10 Athletics Training with Mark Harris

The year 10 PE option- 'Tautoko' have been working with Mark Harris to learn basic athletic skills. Then using the new knowledge have passed this on to the year 7 and 8 students through a rotation of athletic events. The year 10 students will also measure the year 7 and 8's athletic abilities on Thursday afternoon at the Sports bowl, in preparation for primary athletics. Thank you to Mark for his support and well done to all the students involved.



## Spanish Dance Video Project

Earlier this year, the Year 9 Spanish class participated in the Spanish Dance Video Project. They learned a choreographed dance to a Spanish-language song, with the intention of having fun and uniting with other students of Spanish. They were filmed and this video was edited together with videos of other Spanish students around the country. You can see the finished video here:



## Spanish Dance Video Project

## Yr9 Social Studies

This term in Social Studies the Year 9 girls are focusing on financial literacy. Firstly we did an engagement activity to experience how purchasing goods used to look like before the digital age. They used a 'zip-zap' machine for a credit card and a cheque book. There was lots of discussion on the types of cards used today and what their function is.



Around School

## Wairarapa Primary Tennis Championships

Intermediate Tennis on Wednesday saw great success:

In the yr 7 and 8 girls open grade we secured the following results

- 1st place - Paige Shearing
- 2nd place - Holly Johnston
- 3rd place - Hetty Shaw
- 4th place - Daphne Tulloch

In the yr 7 and 8 girls consolation grade

- 1st place - Louisa Wilkie
  - 2nd place - Hattie Spiers
- Ruby Bremner, Nhia Witinitara, and Zoe Pearce played great tennis  
Paige Shearing and Holly Johnston will go on to represent the region at the Manawatu Regional Championships in November.



# Karaitianatanga/Christianity Alive

Blessed in Christ – Ephesians 1:3–8

This week our Mark of Mission is **Tell** – to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. Sometimes it can be hard to see what the Good News is. In Ephesians 1:3–8, Paul reminds us that we are richly blessed through Christ — chosen, loved and made whole by God’s amazing grace. As a school community, this scripture encourages us to see every whanau and staff member as part of God’s great plan, created with purpose and covered by His love.



At this time of year, we give thanks for the many blessings we’ve received — in learning, friendship and faith. We are reminded that God’s grace is not earned but freely given, calling us to live with gratitude and kindness toward others. May we continue to walk in that grace, sharing the love of Christ in all we do.

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.”

“Kia whakapaingia te Atua, te Matua o to tatou Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti, nana nei tatou i manaaki ki nga manaaki katoa o te wairua ki nga wahi o te rangi, i roto i a te Karaiti” — Ephesians/Epeha 1:3

Rev. Wendy

Three posters for World Iron Awareness Week. Each poster has the heading 'ARE YOU LOW IN IRON?' in red. The first poster shows a sad face with a thought bubble containing a tangled mess of lines and a question mark, with text: 'One sign is feeling irritable, grumpy and struggling to concentrate. If you're concerned see your doctor.' The second poster shows a sad face with a thermometer in its mouth, with text: 'One sign is often getting sick and feeling cold. If you're concerned see your doctor.' The third poster shows a sad face with closed eyes and 'zZZZ' next to it, with text: 'One sign is feeling tired, weak and out of breath easily. If you're concerned see your doctor.' All posters include 'WORLD IRON AWARENESS WEEK' and 'IRONWEEK.CO.NZ' at the bottom.

## WORLD IRON AWARENESS WEEK 13TH-19TH OCTOBER

### School App

If you are new to St Matthew's Collegiate, or have yet to download, please follow the link to install our school app <https://schoolappsnz.co.nz/install>  
For current families, please update your subscription groups by clicking on the cog in the top right hand of the screen. It will take you to the groups for you to change.

A promotional banner for the School App. On the left, a smartphone displays the app's interface, which includes a 'Connected At All Times' notification. The background is decorated with colorful confetti. On the right, the text reads: 'Stay Connected With our School App!' in a mix of red and blue fonts. Below this, smaller text says: 'Simply Download 'SchoolappsNZ' from the Google Play or App Store &amp; search your school once installed.'



## Key Dates

- Monday 6 October - First Day Term Four
- 6 –10 October - Yr11 Derived Grade Exams
- 7 –14 October - Senior College Derived Grade Exams
- Friday 17 October - Orientation Day
- Saturday 25 October - Exeat Weekend
- Monday 27 October - Labour Day
- Thursday 30 October - Last day for Seniors
- Thursday 30 October - Senior College Prizegiving

## 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



## 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/adGVwP9CMqPqpdyg7>





# Donations Welcome

TO ALL OUR WHANAU -  
WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF  
ITEMS FOR THE FRIENDS RAFFLE FOR  
THE FETE THIS YEAR.  
WE WOULD ADORE THOSE ITEMS YOU  
BOUGHT AND COULD NOT USE, IN  
FACT SURPRISE US BECAUSE WE WILL  
BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.  
ALL DONATIONS TO THE SMCS OFFICE



## Thank you!



THE FRIENDS OF RATHKEALE COLLEGE

### Donate Designer Clothing & Make a Difference!

We are looking for donations of designer and brand-name clothing for our pre-loved charity clothing stall at the upcoming Rathkeale Christmas Fete.

Help us turn high fashion into high impact! All proceeds go directly to the Friends of Rathkeale to support student resources.

**We are collecting: (clean and in great condition)**

- Adult and teen clothing
- Designer handbags and shoes
- Popular labels

Please only donate items in **great condition**, just one or two quality items would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Donation Drop-Off:**

Please drop any donations into either the Rathkeale or St Matthews school office during September and October.

Thank you for your support.

*"Mātau māmano, ka rapa te whai.  
Many hands make light work"*

## 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.

## SELLING YOUR UNIFORM SECOND HAND

The St Matthew's Uniform Shop sells second hand uniform, on your behalf.

When an item of clothing sells, the shop retains a 30% commission, the amount owing to you is then credited to your daughter's school account. For uniform that is sold after your daughter leaves, a bank account, name of the account and email address will be required.

Clothing will get the best price when it is CLEAN; the Blazer, Tunic Dress and Senior Skirt should be dry cleaned. Please attend to discoloured underarms and collars before soaking white blouses in a stain removing laundry soaker (don't use bleach as this will fade the crest).

Uniform can be brought into the shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm - 4pm during term time. Uniform may alternatively be left at the school office, marked "For Sale, attention UNIFORM SHOP". Please make sure that it is securely boxed up, with your daughter's name included.

Ties and Caps are sold second hand, but any money generated will be a donation to the shop.

**ITEMS NOT SOLD SECOND HAND IN THE UNIFORM SHOP:**  
Old Style Hoodies / Togs / Hockey & Football Socks / Shoes & Sandals / Black Ankle Socks / Old Style PE Tops & Shorts

# Community News and Events

GERALDINE INDER SCHOOL OF DANCE & DRAMA PRESENTS

## Cinderella

WAIRARAPA EVENTS CENTRE  
SATURDAY 25TH 4PM, SUNDAY 26TH 4PM,  
TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER 6PM 2025

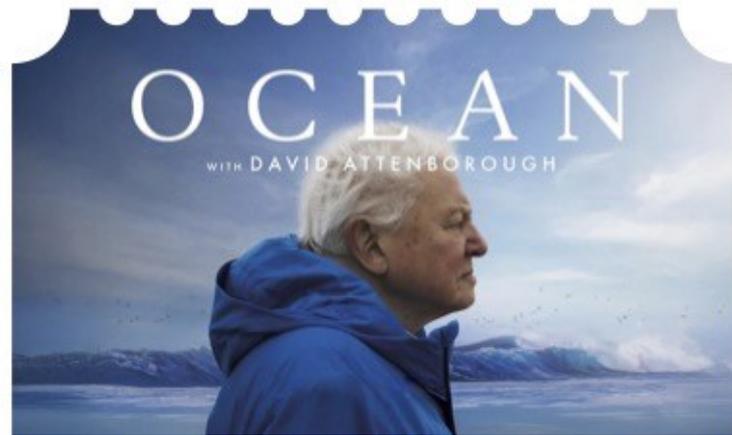
BOOK NOW AT  
[WWW.CARTERTONEC.CO.NZ](http://WWW.CARTERTONEC.CO.NZ)

## MOVIE NIGHT

Celebrate World Animal Day with our Movie Fundraiser:  
**DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S OCEAN**

**SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER**  
RANGATAHI HUB, ENTRANCE OFF SH2  
BETWEEN ITM AND THE CLOCK TOWER, CARTERTON

Doors open: 6:30pm | Tickets: \$10 per person  
Email [tabitha.mcmaster@gmail.com](mailto:tabitha.mcmaster@gmail.com) to secure a spot,  
door sales also available.  
Profits go to Wairarapa Young Labour.  
Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase (cash only).



## Defensive Driving Course with Lee Quayle

*My next course will be on 1, 3, 8 and 10 December 2025. Course Cost \$279*

Go to the website [defensivedriving.aa.co.nz](http://defensivedriving.aa.co.nz)

Select Masterton

Then select Quayle's Driving Instruction

Then complete the form.

Once I have the form, I can send you course details and an invoice.

Or you can text or ph me on [021 154 7346](tel:0211547346)

Thank you



## WAIRARAPA CRICKET 2025-26 PLAYER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are seeking expressions of interest from players keen to be involved in the below teams.

\*Please note that these agree groups are based upon the players 2025 school year\*

- Year 6 Boys
- Year 7 Boys
- Year 8 Boys
- Year 9+10 Boys
- Year 11+12 Boys

- Year 7+8 Girls
- Year 9+10 Girls
- Year 11-13 Girls

PLEASE FILL IN THE  
GOOGLE FORM LINK



**Holmes**  
Construction NZ  
EST 1957

**PGG Wrightson**