

STAR BOARD

SMCS



TRINITY SCHOOLS
ST MATTHEW'S
Term Four, Week Nine



Kia ora koutou,

Principal's Message

As per last year I will have more to say at the Prizegiving tomorrow so I will keep it brief today...

There is something cleansing about the rain. As I wrote this, I saw junior students darting between raindrops, eager for the Activity Day ahead. Their energy was contagious, a reminder that life's beauty often lies in its unpredictability.

Plans changed, and that's part of the lesson. Life will always bring surprises, and the ability to pivot is not just a practical skill—it's a mindset. It's what allows us to embrace challenges, find joy in the unexpected, and keep moving forward with confidence.

Rain can cleanse, but it can also feel heavy. For some among us, this year has brought sorrow and farewells that words cannot fully ease. We stand with you, and please know that we are here to shelter you.

After the rain come rainbows, each offering its own pot of gold. This year, our pots of gold have been many—our Wizard of Oz production that brought magic to the stage, victories in culture, sport, music, and academics, friendships formed and lessons learned from friendships lost, and the countless moments of growth that shaped who we are as a community.

The rain washes the earth and helps new life grow, our commitment to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi is about refreshing and strengthening who we are as a school. It's not a one-off shower—it's an ongoing flow that shapes how we learn, how we treat each other, and how we walk forward together. When we let those values soak in, we are all the richer, more connected, and truer to Aotearoa.

Rain can change a landscape. This year, we've felt that change as we prepare to farewell some remarkable members of our team. Like rain that nourishes the soil, each of them has poured time, energy, and care into helping our students grow.

Tutors Nell and Awande, who have been with us for a year, brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm that brightened our boarding, pe, and sport.

Bruce Tooley, after seven years as our Science Technician, has been the steady stream behind countless experiments and discoveries.

And Vicky Harper—over countless years as Head of Health—has been like the deep, sustaining rain that shapes generations.

Their impact runs deep, and while their paths now lead elsewhere, the growth they've nurtured will continue to flourish in our school.

And to our Year 13 legends—what a ride! You've slogged through storms, cruised through sunny spells, and left your mark like a decent downpour. You've learned heaps, had a few laughs, and probably pulled more all-nighters than you'd admit. Now it's time to head out and make your own weather. Whether life throws you drizzle or a full-on cyclone, you've got the skills to pivot and the roots to keep you grounded. Go smash it, live large, and don't be strangers.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui – Be strong, be brave, be steadfast.”

Ngā Mihi

peel





Boarding Note



Kia Ora Koutou.

Many thanks to our Year 12 boarders for their efforts last night at our annual Christmas Dinner. It was a fabulous send off for our Year 13 boarders who have honestly been an absolute pleasure to have in boarding.

Thank you to Don and his team in the kitchen for the beautiful meal and to everyone for attending. Moments like this when we are all together are really special. It is so good for everyone to remember we really are a great little boarding community!

A final reminder both boarding houses will close at 8.30am on Saturday morning so we can transport girls to prizegiving. They will reopen after the event and will then close for the year at approximately 2pm.

Happy holidays everyone. Take care and best wishes for 2026!

Ngā mihi.

Jo

Merry
Christmas



Sports Results—Week 8

Interclub

SMS Kowhai vs Hadlow Daniell: SMS loss

SMS Kiwikiwi vs Gladstone Gold: SMS loss

SMS Kea vs Hadlow Djokovic: SMS loss

Regional 3

SMS Green no game

SMS Black no game

SMS Gold vs Martinborough Tennis Club: SMS loss 3-0

SMS White vs Masterton Women's Reg3: SMS win 2-1



Primary Cricket vs Lakeview: win by default

Development Cricket vs WaiCol Development: SMS win by 6 wickets

SMS 2nd XI vs Kuranui /Solway Girls: SMS win by 6 wickets

1st XI Cricket vs Rathkeale College White: SMS win by 1 wicket



SMS Tuis vs WC Girls Blue: SMS loss 3-0

SMS Robins vs Chanel 1: SMS loss 8-1



Sports Results—Week 9

St Matthew's Black tennis team consisting of Lucy Orsborn, Lauren Weber, Olivia Orsborn & Annabelle Wyeth won the Regional women's tennis final playing the Martinborough women in the final last night. [Congratulations](#) and we are very proud of you



Regional 3

SMS Black vs Martinborough: SMS Black win 1st Place – **Congratulations!**



Development Cricket vs SMS 2nd XI: SMS 2nd XI win

Duke of Edinburgh—Bronze Tramp

DOE bronze catch up qualifier tramp. Thank you to the Mackenzie family for having us on their farm



Yr10 PE—Yoga with Sophie

Yoga with Sophie Kittow to end our Year 10 PE programme



Decades—Yr 10 Collaboration

Last night Year 10 gathered together for the performance of their collaboration project. Subjects involved in the event were Social Studies, Dance, Music, Drama, Art, Fashion and Food & Nutrition. The theme for the evening was DECADES—50's,60's, 70's & 80's. The girls presented items of News and TV Broadcasts around major events of these decade , this was supported by Dance items, Fashion and Art. Following at the end of the evening Food & Nutrition hosted a decade supper. It was a true celebration of learning and was enjoyed by all.



Activity Day—Ocean Sports

Not ideal weather for sailing but our intrepid girls are making the most of it out on Wellington Harbour.



Activity Day—Chocolate and Chai making



Lip Sync/Music Festival



Karaitianatanga/Christianity Alive

As we come to the close of another school year, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness, guidance and grace among our ākongā, whānau and staff. This season of Advent reminds us to wait with hope and joy for the coming of Christ. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5). “E whiti ana te marama i te pōuri, ā, kāore te pōuri i taea te turaki” (Hōane 1:5).

We celebrate the growth we have witnessed—intellectual, spiritual and personal—and look forward to the journeys ahead. As Scripture reminds us, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1). “Whakamoemititia a Ihowā, he pai hoki ia; he mea mau tonu tōna aroha” (Ngā Waiata 136:1).

In this blessed season, may the peace of Christ rest upon every home in our community. “The Lord bless you and keep you” (Numbers 6:24). “Mā Ihowā koutou e manaaki, e tiaki hoki” (Tauanga 6:24).

Ngā manaakitanga o te wā—may God’s blessings be with you all this Christmas and throughout the summer break.

Rev. Wendy



Blessing the Cope

This morning our kura gathered to karakia and bless the new cope crafted by Mr Clarke for our current and future Chaplains. The blessing was led by Rev. John Hughes, the Bishop’s Nominee on the Board of Proprietors.

In the Book of Exodus, God instructs skilled artisans, filled with the wairua o te mātauranga (spirit of wisdom), to create sacred garments for Aaron the Priest to wear in service to God. In the Anglican tradition, when a priest dons these kākahu tapu, they honour this heritage and mark the significance of important occasions.

In Genesis 2, we read that when God completed Creation, He blessed it—especially the seventh day—setting it apart as tapu, holy. In that same spirit of dedication and setting apart, we blessed our new cope today.

History of the Cope

A cope is a Christian vestment worn by bishops and priests to dignify important celebrations and services. St Matthew’s Collegiate has had a cope for some years. It had been made for the Revd Ted Dashfield who gifted it to the school during the chaplaincy of the Revd Lesley Mouat. Earlier this year it was noted that the silk fabric had started to show signs of wear, and it was decided that it should be retired to the archive.

At this point Mr Clarke thought that it might be appropriate to make a new cope for special services. Mrs Bucknell provided several lengths of fabric from which the green was chosen; Ms Theng designed the dove for the hood, and Mr Clarke fashioned the cope itself.

The cope is decorated with a number of symbols. The school crest and the stars on the front reference St Matthew’s and our motto, *Ad Astra per Aspera*; the Cross shows the faith of our community, and the dove and fire are established symbols of the Holy Spirit: At Jesus’ baptism the Spirit descended in the form of a dove, and at Pentecost the Spirit came to the disciples as tongues of fire.

The old silver clasp came originally from the estate of a friend’s elderly aunt - a lady who had started nursing at St Thomas’ hospital while Florence Nightingale was still alive. It is a gift for the cope. For 50 years it has sat in a drawer. Now it is time for it to be seen again.

Special thanks to Ruth Bucknell for the fabric, and Monika Theng for help with design.

Mr. Clarke



Uniform shop hours for 2026

Thursdays 1pm- 4pm during term time.

If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith:

smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz or
sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz

Please note: The St Matthew's uniform shop will be closed over the December/ January school holiday break.

At the end of January the shop will be open to all (no appointment needed) for 4 days in the last week of the summer holidays, 10am - 3pm each day: **Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th, Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th January.**

The shop will also open on **Sunday 1st February 2pm - 5pm.**

New families (who haven't already had an appointment) may make an appointment the week Tuesday 20th January – Friday 23rd January. An appointment may also be made that week for anyone to bring **second hand uniform** in to sell.

New Zoggs togs available at the St Matthew's uniform shop @\$49.00 for women's, girls' sizes @\$40.00

Uniform information: <https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/>

Instrumental Lesson Request for 2026

Please complete the attached form if you would like to continue or start Instrumental lessons during 2026.

[Instrumental Lesson Request 2026](#)

Key Dates

- **Friday 5 December - Carol Service**
- **Saturday 6 December - Prizegiving**
- **Monday 8 December - Leavers Ball**

2026 Term Dates

Term One - Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April

Term Two - Monday 20th April to Friday 3rd July

Term Three - Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

Term Four - Monday 12th October to Saturday 5th December



Thank You

Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB) would like to thank the many parents / caregivers, staff and extend whānau who have taken part in our recent surveys and Trinity Futures focus groups.

Your engagement and insights have been invaluable as we plan for an exciting future for our Trinity Schools. Your voices are helping us shape an innovative, future-focused educational model that remains true to our Special Character, honours are past and ensures we are fit for purpose for the years ahead.

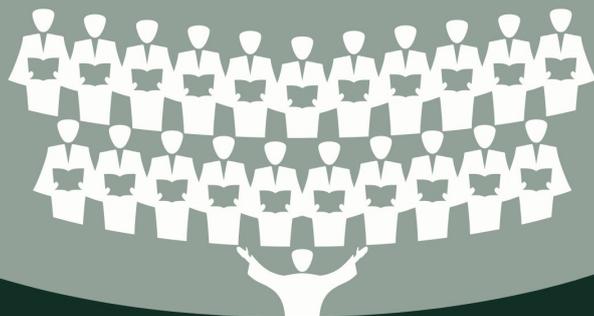
Thanks again for all your support. We look forward to further Trinity Futures engagement with our school community in 2026. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday season with friends and whānau.





CHRISTMAS *Carol* SERVICE

5TH DECEMBER, 2025



Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with beautiful music, timeless hymns, and community togetherness.

START AT 5.30PM

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH
CHURCH STREET, MASTERTON

ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

SMCS *Prizegiving*

YOU ARE INVITED TO
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER
9.30AM
RATHKEALE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM



Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

May the magic of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and wonder. Have a beautiful and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your loved ones.
We look forward to seeing you back in 2026!

TERM DATES 2026

Term 1- Mon 2 Feb to Thu 2 Apr
Term 2- Mon 20 Apr to Fri 3 Jul
Term 3- Mon 20 Jul to Fri 25 Sep
Term 4- Mon 12 Oct to Sat 5 Dec

SPONSORSHIP *opportunity*

ST MATTHEW'S EQUESTRIAN IS HOSTING OUR
INTERSCHOOLS JUMPING SHOW ON
18 FEBRUARY 2026

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING SPONSORSHIP
SUPPORT, INCLUDING:

- RING SPONSORS FOR EACH JUMPING ARENA
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE DONATIONS
- PRIZE DONATIONS – ANY KIND, NOT JUST EQUESTRIAN

BENEFITS:

- Logo in event schedule
- Promotion on Facebook, website & newsletters
- On-day exposure – signs, flags, banners
- Prizegiving opportunities

PLEASE CONTACT:

Olivia Goodsir: olivia.goodsir@trinityschools.nz



Save the Date

ST MATTHEW'S OLD GIRLS
DECADE REUNION 2026

KINGS BIRTHDAY
WEEKEND
FRIDAY 29TH MAY -
SATURDAY 30TH MAY

IF YOUR YEAR GROUPS 7TH FORM/YEAR 13
COHORT FINISHED SCHOOL IN A YEAR ENDING
WITH A "6" (IE: 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, 2016)
SMOGA WOULD LIKE TO WARMLY INVITE YOU TO
JOIN US FOR THE FESTIVITIES PLANNED OVER
THIS VERY MEMORABLE WEEKEND.

For now, if you don't want to miss out, this year or any future
reunions, now is a good chance to visit the SMOGA webpage
and check we have all your correct details.
Click the link below for the membership page and click
"Update My Details".
<https://www.smoga.org.nz/membership/>

SMOGA

"To the Stars"

Grant 2026

St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA) is
pleased to offer a new grant for 2026 – the
SMOGA "To the Stars" Grant.

This is a \$2,500 grant, paid directly to
St Matthew's, to support an Old Girl's daughter
who is beginning her **first year of enrolment at
St Matthew's Collegiate in 2026** (Years 7–13).

The recipient will be selected by **ballot** from all
eligible applications.

Applications open 6 December 2025 and
close 8 February 2026.

For more information or to apply click here:
<https://forms.gle/bHiKZcKVbwNjFAZb9>

For any questions, please contact:
**Amber Greenfield – SMOGA Grants and Scholarship
Convenor**
Email: amberjgreenfield@gmail.com

LOST PROPERTY ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be getting rid of all unclaimed clothing lost
property on the last day of this term.

School uniform will be gifted to the uniform shop.
Non-uniform clothing will be put into a clothing bin
for a charity.

Any unclaimed small items after two terms will be
disposed of as follows:

- Bank cards – will be sent back to the bank
- Glasses – donated to Specsavers to the Fred
Hollows Foundation
- Rings/Earrings/Bracelets/Necklaces – donated to a
charity shop
- Electronics - donated to a charity shop
- Phones – given to a mobile company for recycling
- Snapper Cards – will be destroyed

NAME :

Thank
You

St Matthew's
Collegiate School

2026 New Sports Offerings

Keep an eye out for
sign-ups via email

Term 1

- Archery
- Lawn Bowls
- Clay Target
- Futsal
- Golf

Term 2

- Rugby Union



ATTENTION ALL OLD BOYS

who were part of the cohorts who left school in
1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016.

2026 is your year to attend the
King's Birthday Weekend Decade Reunions,
Friday 29th May - Saturday 30th May.

Contact your Year Group facilitators or
the Old Boys' Association for more details:
oldboys@rathkealeoldboys.org.nz



PIFA HOLIDAY PROGRAMME - DECEMBER 2025 DATES ANNOUNCED

7-15yo
All abilities
Weds 17- Fri 19 Dec
9am-12pm

At [Rathkeale College](#), Masterton
Register at [https://www.paulifill.com/
holiday-programme-registrations](https://www.paulifill.com/holiday-programme-registrations)

International and National football coach,
and ex-professional footballer Paul Ifill and
his quality team of coaches will be provid-
ing the ultimate football holiday programme
this Christmas! Spaces are limited so

ACTING ANTICS

Self Discovery Through Performance™

Summer Theatre Camps

- Audition rehearse & perform a fully costumed play in 4 days!
- Fabulous costumes!
- Every student gets a role with dialogue!
- Learn acting, stagecraft & performance skills!
- Strictly limited places!

December 16-19

SANTA CANCELS CHRISTMAS

Blitzen has put his hoof down and refuses to be ZAPPED, in fact he refuses to be zapped ever again! This creates a huge problem for Santa, as Blitzen's antlers are Santa's GPS. Will Christmas have to be cancelled or can Captain Dasher, Grand Toymaker Frieda and the Elf Toymakers save the day? What will happen when the Reindeer Council passes sentence on Blitzen and the rebel reindeer? So much to do and so much confusion, especially when Ollie, Head of Elf Logistics, gets involved!



January 20-23 ★

Thunder Palace



There is great concern amongst the Tameleon Princesses Neve, Samara, Xanthia, Serephina and the Warrior Princess D'hara. Their brother Thor has stolen the Staff of Aiden and is raining an eternal winter on the Land of Tamelea. Keylor, Keeper of the Staff of Aiden, summons all who wish to save the people and lands of Tamelea, but will the Dramelian Dragons and their gypsy riders help? And what of Lexus, Keylor's sister. Will she support Keylor or has she already moved to the dark side?

Ages: 8 to 13 years (No previous experience required)
Venue: St Matthew's Collegiate School
Hours: Program operates 9am-3pm - Venue open 8:30am-3:30pm
Performance: 3pm on the final day in the Auditorium
Fees: \$195 (Includes tuition, script, costumes, Acting Antics book bag, Kids Club folder & performance certificate)
Director: Deborah Percy

In association with **St Matthew's Collegiate School**

REGISTER: www.wairarapa.actingantics.com, ENQUIRIES: deborah@actingantics.com - 0211832508

Whakaoriori Scouts Gala Day

Date: 14 December 2025

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Location: 45 Harley Street, Masterton
(Whakaoriori Scout Den)

Garage Sale – Bargains for everyone!

* Raffle + Tickets

* Café & Baking

* Games & Activities for all ages

Join us for a fun-filled day supporting our Scouts as they aim to attend the New Zealand Scout Jamboree and the World Scout Jamboree in Poland.

There's something for everyone:

Garage Sale: Find treasures while supporting our Scouts!

Games & Activities: Fun for all ages.

Scout-Run Café: Delicious food and drinks made by our Scouts.

And More!

All proceeds will help our Scouts on their exciting adventures, building skills, friendships, and memories that last a lifetime.

Come along, have fun, and support our amazing Scouts!

Name: Kushla Pullman

Phone: 0272048770 - Email: kushlapullman@gmail.com

OFF-GRID
ADVENTURE CAMPS

SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS

ripyl

JANUARY 2026
Sunday 18th Jan – Friday 23rd Jan
6 days | 5 nights | 9–13 year olds

CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY
WWW.OFFGRIDADVENTURES.KIWI

REGISTER TODAY

Your ultimate holiday camp adventure!
Based at Ranui Farm Park in Central Hawke's Bay, Off-Grid Adventure Camps provides 9–13 year olds with a transformational, fun and device-free holiday experience. With experienced Instructors and chef on-site, our camps offer 6 days of exciting activities, yummy meals, and the opportunity to build great friendships and memories in a supportive environment. Give kids the time of their lives, with an enriching camp experience!

Carterton
pool party

AGE RANGE: 13-20 YEAR OLDS
LIVE MUSIC | FREE FOOD | FREE ENTRY

Date: Thursday, 22 January 2026 | **Time:** 6pm onwards | **Where:** Carterton pool, Pembroke St



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.

Stay 'Connected' With our School App!

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