



## Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK ONE

### **Kia ora koutou,**

Although I've been back for a couple of weeks, today marks only our fourth official day of school for 2026 – and it has already been full and energetic. From welcoming new students and whānau, logging devices, and settling into routines, to athletics standards and everything in between, it's clear the holiday period is now well behind us.

### **Welcome to 2026**

It was a pleasure once again to welcome parents of students new to St Matthew's at my home last weekend. I'd like to acknowledge my partner, our Board led by Presiding Member Ian Smith, the Board of Proprietors, The Friends of St Matthew's, SMOGA, and our staff for helping make the afternoon such a success. Beautiful weather and the warmth of a wonderful group of people made for a truly memorable event.

On Day One we held our **Mihi Whakatau**, and seeing the rows of new students reminded us all of the fresh ideas, new opportunities, and exciting days ahead.

### **STAND: Our Anti-Bullying Programme**

This week I have been inducting Years 7, 8 and 9 into **STAND**, our anti-bullying programme. I remind our girls that while no school is perfect, we can build a culture where values, systems, and processes keep everyone safe. This relies on every one of us contributing positively.

### **Bell-to-Bell Phone Procedures**

Our new process – phones collected at the start of the day and returned at the end – has begun smoothly. I've heard no complaints, which suggests it is working well.

We will review the system, as we are not naïve to the realities of phone use, but early signs are encouraging.

### **Special Leave Procedures**

Each year I include a reminder about **special leave**, as consistency is important for teaching and learning. Our core business is learning, and attendance has a direct impact on achievement. We work hard to minimise disruptions and appreciate your support in doing the same.

The Ministry of Education defines absences as:

- **Explained absence:** an absence with a reason accepted by the school.
- **Justified absence:** an explained absence that meets the school's criteria.
- **Unjustified absence:** either unexplained or outside acceptable criteria.

Students must complete the **pink Special Leave form** for any full-day or multi-day absence. Presence in class significantly increases success, especially for assessments. When a request is marked Justified, particularly for seniors, it ensures fairness and accurate NZQA reporting. An Explained absence does not guarantee flexibility for assessments.

All schools are now required to have an **Attendance Management Plan (AMP)**, which we have in place. This supports consistent pathways for monitoring and responding to attendance concerns.

## **Student Driving**

Driving is an exciting rite of passage, and we have clear guidelines to support safety:

### **Driving Permits**

All students – boarders or day girls – must obtain a school driving licence each academic year if they wish to drive to school.

- Year 13 may apply in Terms 1 and 2
- Year 12 may apply from Term 3

### **Conditions**

1. Permission is a privilege granted only after written approval from a parent/caregiver and the principal.
2. Carrying passengers (full licence only) also requires written approval from the driver's and passengers' parents/caregivers and the principal.
3. All NZ road rules and school driving rules must be followed.

### **Expectations for All Student Drivers**

1. Cars are not to be driven on school grounds.
2. No passenger travel to or from Senior College.
3. Driving privileges may be revoked at any time.
4. Restricted licence drivers carrying passengers will lose their driving rights and police will be notified.

Students must collect the full **School Driving Form** for **All** detailed expectations.

### **Keeping Us Informed**

If your contact details, address, medical information, or emergency contacts change, please let the office know promptly. Up-to-date information ensures we can communicate effectively and respond appropriately if needed.

### **Complaints Process**

All school policies, including the **Complaints Policy**, can be found on **SchoolDocs**. If you need help accessing it, please contact my PA, Haley Feringa-Howley. Clear processes help ensure concerns are handled respectfully and effectively.

## Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our Concerns and Complaints Policy and related policies on SchoolDocs.

### OVERVIEW

You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.

The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.

The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

### HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).

**A staff member involved**  
(e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)

**The principal**  
for serious matters

**The board chair**  
for concerns or complaints about the principal

**Another board member**  
for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member).
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter.
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative).
- Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.

### HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).

### NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, the school considers the matter closed.

If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response, you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

After the board has dealt with a matter, there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

Copyright © SchoolDocs, February 2025

## NCEA 2025

We are delighted to share our exceptional provisional NCEA results. Final confirmation will come in March, though any adjustments are likely to further strengthen our outcomes. Our students achieved: Level 1 – 100%, Level 2 – 100%, and Level 3 – 94% (expected to rise to 98%).

Congratulations to all our candidates – we are incredibly proud of you.

That is me for now. Have a great Waitangi weekend.

Ngā Mihi

## Attendance for 2026

This year we have implemented the Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) the Government has issued. Below is a diagram to explain the system. The Dean of the year group will contact you if your daughter's attendance is beyond the green zone. The aim is to work with families to ensure regular attendance.

The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than 90% of the time



Welcome

Sign in to SchoolDocs

Username

Password

  Show

# Boarding

Kia Ora Koutou.

Welcome back! It is fantastic to



have the boarding houses open again and filled with the buzz that is boarding.

A very warm welcome to our new and returning boarding families. We have had a lovely time getting to know your girls and have been proud of the way everyone has helped each other to learn the routines in both Main and Hampton houses. Parents/ caregivers, the feedback from the boarding staff is that the year groups in boarding are settling in well and what a fabulous group of young boarders we have.

When chatting with boarders I particularly like to hear why girls have come in to boarding... yes in some instances it might be because they had too, but for many it is to grow their independence and social connections; perhaps for the stability and support boarding offers; or maybe because a parent went to boarding school and they want their daughter/s to have the same opportunity. Whatever the reason, we welcome you all and our aim is to provide all boarders and their families, with a happy and safe environment.

## Important information for all boarding families-

1. Orah- Hopefully, we now have all new and returning families signed up on Orah. Please get in touch if you are unsure. Orah is how we send notifications to boarders and their families and how leave passes are created.
2. Contact details- We have a new phone system in place. Please note the correct contact information

Main House: 06 370-0067 ext 8953

Email: [mainhouse@trinityschools.nz](mailto:mainhouse@trinityschools.nz)

Hampton House: 06 370-0067 ext 8744

Email: [hamptonhouse@trinityschools.nz](mailto:hamptonhouse@trinityschools.nz)

Director of Boarding: 06 370-0067 ext 8713

Email: [jo.booth@trinityschools.nz](mailto:jo.booth@trinityschools.nz)

1. Our term 1 exeat weekends are this weekend and the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March. Please note that after an exeat weekend, boarding house reopen at 6pm. Unfortunately, dinner is not provided on exeat weekends.
2. This year there are three boarding options available- part time / weekly (5nights)/ or full (7 nights). If you are yet to indicate which option is best for daughter, please get in touch.

Enjoy the long weekend. There is no doubt it has been a big week for everyone getting back into the routine of school so rest up and enjoy time with loved ones.

Ngā mihi.

Jo



## Waitangi Day | Rā o Waitangi

Every year on 6 February people of all communities and backgrounds gather at Waitangi to commemorate the first signing of New Zealand's founding document: Te Tiriti o Waitangi and The Treaty of Waitangi.

Rev Wendy has taken a group of St Matthew's students to Waitangi to give service with Karuwā leading up to and on Waitangi Day.

Karuwā seek to engage Aotearoa New Zealand in a conversation about identity and history in order to help people know the story they are a part of. They do this by connecting communities through haerenga, story and service.

Travelling in the early hours of Tuesday morning our group arrived safe and sound. Wednesday saw our SMCS group travel to Marsden's Cross, Hoshi and learned about Rangihoua. Fabulous weather, views and korero, and swims. Dinner out allowed quality time to be spent with Lillian from Karuwā. As part of their service, they cleaned toilets and peeled a lot of kumara.

We hope the SMCS group fully embrace the remainder of their experience of being at The Waitangi commemoration.

In the Bible, a covenant is a sacred promise that binds people together in relationship—with God and with one another. Throughout Scripture, God's covenants are always about faithfulness, justice, and unity rooted in love. As an Anglican school in Aotearoa New Zealand, we can reflect on Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a covenant of relationship—an agreement that calls us to honour partnership, protect dignity, and seek mutual flourishing.

Jesus' prayer in John 17, "that they may all be one," reminds us that unity is at the heart of God's vision for humanity. When we understand Te Tiriti through this biblical lens, it invites us to live out Christ's call to reconciliation, respect, and shared purpose. In doing so, we bear witness to a faith that seeks unity not by ignoring difference, but by loving faithfully within it.

*It is with an understanding of our past; society can make better decisions about its present and future. Societal 'self-awareness' is crucial to our collective life, today and tomorrow. (excerpt from the Karuwā website)*



# Around School

Prefects' Commissioning was a special moment recognising our student leaders and the important roles they will play throughout the year.



## **Karaitianatanga/ Christianity Alive**

As we begin a new school year, we give thanks for the gift of new beginnings — new opportunities to learn, to grow and to walk together in faith. Our prayer is that this year will be grounded in God's love, guided by His wisdom and filled with joy, curiosity and compassion.

At the heart of all we do is our trust in the Lord, who goes before us and walks alongside us in every moment of learning. As a school community, we commit this year into His care, seeking His guidance in all things.

“Whakapaua atu tōu ngakau ki a Ihowā; kaua e whakawhirinaki ki tōu ake māramatanga. I ō ara katoa whakaaro ki a ia, ā, māna koe e whakatika ō ara.”

— Ngā Whakataukī 3:5–6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

— Proverbs 3:5–6

We look forward to a year of learning that nurtures both hearts and minds, strengthens our relationships, and honours God in all that we do. May His peace and presence be with each child, family, and staff member as we journey together through the year ahead.

## **Extra Curricular Activity Sheet - Will be sent via the APP**

# St. Matthew's Graduate Profile

This week the students in years 7-11 have been introduced to the St Matthew's Graduate profile. It links together all aspects of student life here at the school and encourages the girls to develop their skills, knowledge and attributes so they leave us as confident, well- educated and socially aware young women.

The students will set personal goals and review them twice during the year alongside their whanau teachers. At the end of the year your daughter will receive a year-end review containing their goals, a summary of grades, awards and groups that they have been involved in and feedback from their dean and a senior manager. This will sit alongside the effort grades and other formal reporting which you receive during the year.



## Uniform Shop hours for 2026

New opening hours: Thursdays 1pm- 4pm during term time.

If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith: [smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz](mailto:smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz) or [sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz](mailto:sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz)

New Zoggs togs available at the St Matthew's uniform shop @\$49.00 for women's, girls' sizes @\$40.00. Caps are available from the school office for \$3.50

Uniform information:

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



*Reminder*

PE shorts are now in stock so ALL students need St Matt's shorts for PE (no plain black ones please)

## Key Dates:

Friday 6 Feb - Waitangi Day - Exeat Weekend

Mon 9 -Wed 11 Feb -Year 9 Camp

Thursday 12 Feb - ID Photos

Tuesday 17 Feb - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races

Wednesday 18 Feb - Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18 Feb - SMS Equestrian Day

Friday 20 Feb - Athletics Day - Sports Bowl

Wednesday 25 Feb - Whanganui Collegiate Fixture

## 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 5 December



# 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](mailto:amberjgreenfield@gmail.com)



We would like to acknowledge Cater Plus and the awards they received at the lower north island Cater Plus event:

St Matthew's:  
Commitment Award: Don Findstrup and Monica Clark  
Excellence in Food Safety finalist: Don Findstrup

Rathkeale:  
Excellence in Health and Food Safety finalist/  
Regional Winner & National Winner :Bea Rico  
Excellence in Food Service: Ella Mae Harrison  
Passion for Food Finalist: Suda Rejoy  
Finalist for Regional Site of the Year



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please let us know if your contact details have changed

[sm.office@trinityschools.nz](mailto:sm.office@trinityschools.nz)

or complete a change request through KAMAR

Trinity Youth Movement  
For all Year 7-9 students

Thursdays 7.00-8.15pm

Meet in the Hadlow School Library  
19 Feb Leaders only session  
26 February  
12 & 26 March

Play games, eat snacks, have fun and talk about life.

For more information email: [mmarara@hadlow.school.nz](mailto:mmarara@hadlow.school.nz)



THE LEARNING CONNEXION  
School of Creativity and Art

THURSDAYS  
5 FEB - 2 APR  
6:00-8:00pm



# AFTER SCHOOL ART CLASSES

In our vibrant & engaging setting, you can spend an exciting term getting a snapshot of multiple creative disciplines.

Each week, you'll get to experiment with different materials & techniques while creating unique & imaginative artworks that reflect your growing skills & ideas.

## IGNITE YOUR CREATIVE SPARK

0800 278 769  
@thelearningconnexion  
[www.tlc.ac.nz](http://www.tlc.ac.nz)

## ENROLLING NOW FOR 2026

### GERALDINE INDER

#### School of Dance & Drama

**Term starts February 9<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
Registration is online  
[www.inderdance.school.nz](http://www.inderdance.school.nz)

- Speech & Drama
- American Jazz
- Contemporary
- RAD Ballet
- Hip Hop
- Tap
- Tiny Tots from 3 years

**Special Hip Hop workshop on Feb 3rd**  
5.30pm Juniors 8-12years  
6.15pm Seniors 13 plus  
All welcome to try a class \$15

**The best place to be after school.**  
Ph: 021 121 4653 | email: [dancer@wise.net.nz](mailto:dancer@wise.net.nz)




FALLPROTECT  
PRESENTS



Te Kahu Pahiriri Ki Wairarapa  
**HOSPICE WAIRARAPA**

## GOLF DAY

**\$320 FOR A TEAM OF 4**  
ENTRY INCLUDES:

- Breakfast and coffee
- Gourmet slow cooked dinner
- All day entertainment
- Great prizes to be won
- Live and silent auction

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026**  
CARTERTON GOLF CLUB  
TEE OFF 10 AM  
Contact: 06378 8888  
[admin@hospicewairarapa.co.nz](mailto:admin@hospicewairarapa.co.nz)



## Defensive Driving Course with Lee Quayle

My next course will be on 2, 4, 9 and 11 March 2026.

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. (The cost is \$279.) Or you can text or phone me on 021 154 7346

Lee Quayle  
Driving Instructor | AA Driving School  
The New Zealand Automobile Association Incorporated