



## Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK TWO

### **Kia Ora Koutou,**

What an energising start to 2026 we have had. The first two weeks have been full, joyful, and – thanks to our phone collection system – noticeably noisier at lunchtimes. But honestly, it is the kind of happy noise every educator dreams of. Laughter, conversation, actual face-to-face socialising... it is music to my ears.

Every day I am reminded how lucky I am to call St Matthew's my workplace and community.

### **When Someone Needed a Neighbour...**

This week's hymn and the theme of my assembly this week, "When I Needed a Neighbour", felt like more than a familiar tune on the run sheet. It's a real challenge wrapped in a melody. It asks:

**Were you there?** Not perfect. Not all-knowing. Just... present.

Being a neighbour is not about geography – it is about presence, kindness, and everyday courage. And here at St Matthew's, I see those little acts of showing up happening constantly.

### **A School Where We Show Up**

"Showing up" is part of our character as a school – literally and figuratively.

This year, we are using the **national Attendance S.T.A.R. strategy**, designed to support regular attendance and wellbeing across Aotearoa. It reminds us that attendance is a shared responsibility between students, whānau, teachers, and leaders.

But here at St Matt's, our also STAR carries extra meaning:

#### **S – Set good routines**

The unglamorous but undefeated GOAT of success habits.

#### **T – Talk to someone early**

Asking for help is not failure – it's "boss behaviour."

#### **A – Attend regularly**

Everyday matters. Absences add up faster than we think.

#### **R – Reach for success**

Showing up builds momentum in learning, friendships, and confidence. And "showing up" happens in small, beautiful ways:

A smile across the courtyard, helping with books on the stairs, sliding over to make space, and a "That assessment was fire!" at just the right moment

These tiny choices build a school where everyone belongs.

### **Fun + Kindness = The St Matt's Way**

Kindness does not need to be solemn – it can be hilarious, dramatic, or wonderfully over the top. If you swoop in slow-motion-superhero-style to help a friend with dropped books, well done – you are officially a neighbour.

If your mate nails their speech and you call them the MVP, you have made their day. Kindness is cool. Support makes you strong. Being a good neighbour makes you legit.

### **Unity Means Standards (Yes, Uniforms Too!)**

Time for a lighthearted reset on uniform expectations – delivered with love:

Yes... we do see the chain tucked under the collar.

Yes... we notice the "invisible" jewellery.

Yes... "black-adjacent" socks still are not black.

Uniform is not about sameness – it is about pride, identity, and fairness. So it is expected to be worn correctly, confidently, and with pride. Before you say a word, our uniform says who you represent.

### **Looking Inward – Strength in Unity**

As term life ramps up – trials, assessments, productions, leadership opportunities – take a moment to "look in."

Ask yourself: Who might need me today? How can I make someone feel seen or supported? How can I "show up" for someone else?

Unity is not created by one big action – it is the accumulation of small, consistent ones.

### **A Challenge for Us All**

The hymn reminds us:

"The creed and the colour and the name won't matter – were you there?"

So I am inviting all of us – students, staff, whānau – to find **one moment each day** to be there for someone. Just one.

This is how St Matthew's stays not only a place of learning, but a place of belonging – strong, uplifting, united. A place where, when someone needed a neighbour...

**we were there.**

### **Celebrating Sofia's Outstanding Achievements**

We are incredibly proud of Sofia, who has had an extraordinary start to the year:

- Selected as one of four riders for the NZ Young Rider (U21) team
- Competed in Christchurch against Australia
- Earned her silver fern – which she now gets to wear for the year
- Rode a new horse each day (a huge challenge!)
- Helped NZ clinch victory in a thrilling final-day jump-off
- Is in strong contention for the **Youth Olympics** in Senegal this October
- Currently leads both the **National Horse Grand Prix series** and the **Young Rider series**
- Is being filmed for the upcoming Young Riders television series

Why would we not brag about one of our own – because what an achievement.

We are cheering you on, Sofia!

Next week Sofia is in competition in Cambridge. It is a pinnacle event for selectors and an incredible opportunity.

### **Trinity Futures Update**

This final part is the voice of TSTB 'As many of you are aware, the Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB) has been working with our Trinity family of schools on an important initiative called Trinity Futures. This is part of the TSTB Strategic Plan 2025-2040, which aims to establish a future-focused, fit-for-purpose operating model for our schools. Right now, we are evaluating and exploring various options for year levels. No decisions have been made, and we will continue to engage and communicate with our school community to ensure everyone is involved throughout the process.

Last year we engaged with just under 500 individuals via our online TSTB survey and focus groups. We will be running a series of Trinity Futures workshops during the week of the 16th to 20<sup>th</sup> March. These will be held across all our schools, and we encourage Trinity staff, alumni, parents, and caregivers to attend. '

Feedback is always welcome: [future@trinityschools.nz](mailto:future@trinityschools.nz)

Have a safe and happy weekend

Ngā Mihi



# Boarding

Kia Ora Koutou.

# ≡ Welcome ≡

A very warm welcome to our 2026 Boarding and Sport tutors. Olive Evans arrived on Tuesday from the UK while Hessie Clark has been with us a few weeks now from Australia. The tutors are a very important part of our extremely busy sports department, and in boarding they play a key role in terms of running events and activities, general administration and supervision roles, and by connecting with our boarders from both Main and Hampton House.

“Connect, contribute, and become part of the St Matthew’s boarding community” is one of our key phases in boarding, so it was great to see these boarders and their daygirl friends volunteering to help the young swimmers at the hugely popular Breadcraft Wairarapa Kids Triathlon on Monday night. Left to right- Heidi, Phoebe, Harper, Katelyn, Olivia, Harriet and Amelia Huggins (Service Prefect).

We wish everyone a relaxing weekend after a very busy Week 2 at school.

Jo



## Olive & Hessie



# Integrated Activity Schedule

## Integrated Activities Schedule

Week 1 Term 1

Monday Feb 9th - Sunday Feb 15th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Itinerant Teachers Onsite</b>	Deborah Percy (Voice) David Heath (Drums)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano) Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)	Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)		
<b>Before School</b>	1.15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)	1.15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)	1.30-2:00pm Junior Choir Sign-ups (Music Suite)	1.15-2:00pm Kapa Haka (Music Suite)	1.15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)		
<b>During School</b>	Swimming Pool open - Lunch time	Swimming pool open- lunch time	Swimming Pool open- lunch time		1.30-1:45pm Jazz Band (Music Suite)		
	3.30pm - 4.15pm - Tennis - lessons starlings and slicers	3.30-5:30pm Cricket training 1st XI - 3.30pm - 5pm	3.30pm - 5pm Primary Cricket training	4.00-5:30pm Schola Cantorum (Hall)	3.30pm-6pm Tennis - Junior interclub games		Pre-season Winter Sport Sessions 6-7.30pm
	4.15pm - 5pm Tennis lessons - Aces and hitters	3.30pm- TBC Volleyball Snsr at Makoura College		6:00pm Regional 3 Tennis Games SMS White V Opaki @ Opaki SMS Gold V Wai Col @ SMS SMS Green V Martinborough @ Martinborough <i>*girls to book van runs if required*</i>			Netball Yr 9-13s SMS Gym Football All year groups SMS Field Hockey Yr 9-13s SMS Turf
<b>After School</b>	5pm - 6pm Regional 1,2+3 Tennis Training			3.20pm-4.00pm Tennis Lessons Primary			
	3.15pm-4.30pm TBC Futsal @ Waitohu turf			4.00pm-4.40pm Tennis Lessons Secondary			
	3.30pm- TBC Volleyball Jnr @ Makoura College			3.30pm - 5pm Touch Rugby @ Makoura College			
	3.30-4.30pm TBC Swim Club @ St Matts pool			5.30pm- TBC Primary Touch Rugby @ Red Star Rugby Grounds			
	3.30pm - TBC Cricket Trainings @ SMS						

# Around School

Congratulations to Charlotte Macauley who was the winner of the Cath Randall Excellence Award - Awarded in December 2025 at the Growing Future Farmers - Cath Randall x Girls who Grow Excellence Awards 2025.

This award recognised a young wāhine who:  
Has grown personally, Shown leadership or initiative, Upheld care for people, place, planet and community, Built meaningful relationships and Shared knowledge to enable others  
An award about courage to learn, contribute, connect, and dream forward.



## Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

This coming week we mark two important days in the Christian calendar: Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, which together help prepare our hearts for the season of Lent — a time of reflection, repentance and spiritual growth leading up to Easter.

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day of preparation, confession and forgiveness before Lent begins. People eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday because traditionally it was the last day before Lent, when Christians would begin a time of fasting and simple eating.

In the past, families used up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, sugar, and butter before Lent began, so they made pancakes — a simple and tasty way to use these foods. Over time, this became a fun tradition, which is why Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day.

Lent is a time where we are reminded to come honestly before God and receive His grace.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” — 1 John 1:9

“Ki te whākī tātou i ā tātou hara, he pono, he tika hoki ia ki te muru i ā tātou hara, ā, ki te horoi i a tātou i ngā mahi hē katoa.”

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The ashes remind us of our human frailty and our need for God’s mercy, calling us to humility, prayer and renewed commitment to Christ.

“Repent and believe the good news.” — Mark 1:15  
“Ripeneta, ā, whakapono ki te Rongopai.”

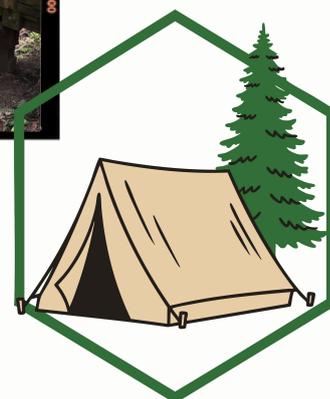
As a school community, this is a special opportunity to pause, reflect, and refocus our hearts on Jesus, preparing ourselves spiritually as we journey towards the celebration of His death and resurrection at Easter. We do this through pancake races on Shrove Tuesday and a simple service on Ash Wednesday where the students receive the mark of the cross in ash on their foreheads.



# Yr 9 Camp

We had a wonderful time at Makahika for our Year 9 camp this year. Students took part in shelter building, river safety, zip lining, and both high and low ropes. It was a fantastic trip and a great opportunity for the year group to come together and bond.

A big thank you to the staff who supported the camp – Miss Glass, Mrs Sacke, Mrs Shearing, and our tutor Hessie.

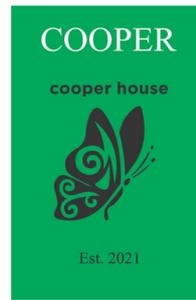


# HOUSE LEADERS FOR 2026

Head of Wake - Audrey Hall  
Deputy Head - Annabelle Guscott  
Junior Leader - Tess McKenzie



Head of Cooper- Harriet Summerfield  
Deputy Head - Annabel Thorneycroft  
Junior Leader - Isabella Shearing



Head of Sheppard- Lucy Didsbury  
Deputy Head - Josephine Presow  
Junior Leader - Nikesha Valand



Head of Batten- Samantha Huggins  
Deputy Head - India Williams  
Junior Leader - Orlagh Holden



## Uniform Shop hours for 2026

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

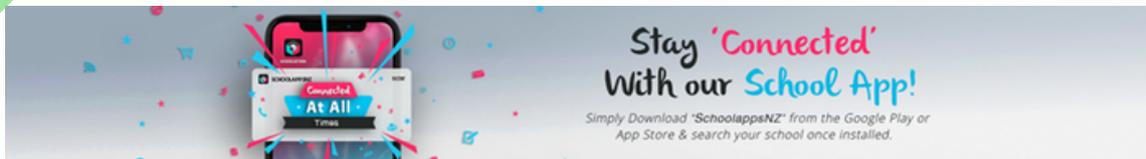
If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith: [smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz](mailto:smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz) or [sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz](mailto:sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz)

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/>

SECOND HAND



## Key Dates:

Tuesday 17 Feb – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races  
Wednesday 18 Feb – Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday 18 Feb – SMS Equestrian Day  
Thursday 19 Feb – Yr7/8 Trip to Holdsworth  
Thursday 19 Feb – Yr7/8 Activities and Chapel  
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





What's on the menu this week?



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



# 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.

# Are you our next Youth Council member?



- Are you aged 12-24 and live in Masterton?
- Want to make a difference in the community and shape our future?

The Masterton Youth Council is recruiting now. Apply today!

Closes Sunday 1 March.

**Masterton Youth Council**  
youthcouncil@mstn.govt.nz



Do men get breast cancer?

Can you show me what a lump feels like?

I'm worried about breast cancer. Should I get a mammogram?

What changes to my breast should I be looking for?



**Breast Cancer Foundation NZ is bringing breast health to you**

**Get free breast health advice from our Pink Campervan Breast Nurses. No appointment needed.**

We're visiting towns near you. It's important to take time for your health so come say hi and have a cuppa.

Find out more:  
[bcf.org.nz/pink-campervan](http://bcf.org.nz/pink-campervan)





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)



TAMA  
Te Ao Mārama Aotearoa

## NEURODIVERSITY Awareness Wānanga

Understand and support our neurodiverse whānau

18 March  
9 AM - 3 PM  
Te Rangimarie Marae



Scan the code to register by 10 March or contact:  
Marama 0223522678 [marama.eddie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marama.eddie@xtra.co.nz)



**FALLPROTECT**  
PRESENTS



**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