

SMCS STAR BOARD



Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK EIGHT

Kia Ora Koutou,

It is week eight of a nine-week term and we are, and have been, busy. When I look back at the term so far, I see wonderful events and activities that have created positivity, but I also see learning from things that have not gone so well. Some highlights have been the start-of-school Trinity staff day here at base; the Athletics and Swimming Sports, which bring school spirit alive; and the Year 9 camp – a great way to transition Year 8s into Year 9, and to blend our old and new students, fostering connection and a sense of belonging. Of course, I could speak about something from every day of the term – that is the beauty of being in a school: it is never the same, and never could one call it boring.

Special Character Review

As Trinity Schools we have had the good fortune to have a team in to look at how visible our Special Anglican Character is in all we do. When I think about this it can be about asking about those intangibles, akin I suppose to asking me as a parent how visible is my love for own children. If someone were to visit my home to review how visible my love is for my children, they may not find a document – but they would see it in the way I speak to them, the way I respond when things are hard, and the way my home is shaped around their belonging.

In much the same way, our reviewers found Special Character visible not just in paperwork, but in how our students are known, welcomed, guided, and cared for each day. They felt it in the tone of the school – a warmth upon arrival, a calm order rather than control, and a sense that people belong before they perform. They observed Special Character in everyday interactions: doors held open, kindness unremarked upon, staff stepping in quietly when a young person needed support, and students doing the same for one another. They saw it in the way difference is held – students welcomed from varied backgrounds, faith understood as invitational rather than imposed, and dignity afforded to each individual. They noticed that faith and values are lived rather than labelled: prayer that is sincere, service that is genuine, and words matched by action. And perhaps most tellingly, they saw Special Character in how the school responds when things are not perfect – with honesty, reflection, grace, and a desire to restore rather than punish.

Desiderata-Latin for 'things to be sought after'

It is this way of living our values – quietly, consistently, and relationally – that has led me again to a reflection I often return to. Just as love and character are revealed through everyday actions rather than formal statements, so too are the principles that guide us as a school. One place these values are articulated with great clarity and humility is in a poem that has long resonated with me, and which continues to offer wisdom for how we live, learn, and relate to one another.

Every now and again I bring the community back to a favourite poem of mine Desiderata by Max Ehrmann (goodness I am in my 13th year, so we are probably talking at least four times). This is a poem he wrote for his daughter. It contains practical advice for day-to-day life, moral and religious philosophy, and ethics. So today I share it as a daughter, for all of our daughters, and maybe a few sons.

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

He is giving advice to remain calm amongst the bustle of everyday life and to practice silence. Be on good terms with people without giving up personal values and assertiveness. Do not be argumentative but remain calm in interactions with others, to whom you should be respectful and attentive, **even if** you consider a person to be dull or ignorant. **Everyone** has a right to be heard.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Avoid people who are loud and aggressive, as they may upset your balance. There is nothing to be gained from comparing yourself to other people as there will always be those higher and lower in the pecking order. Comparisons can lead to vanity or bitterness. Keep it simple and enjoy your own achievements in lifeor your plans for you.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Whatever you do, treasure it and do your best, as it is better to be employed, however humble the work might be, than to be unemployed. Be grateful that you have something that you do. Be cautious when conducting financial transactions because some people will attempt to deceive you. But despite the fact that there are many fraudsters and not so very nice people, do not become blind to the fact that there are also many good people, who have high moral standards. There are heroes in every walk of life.

Be yourself.
Especially, do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.

Do not pretend to be the type of person that you are not, or to have feelings that you do not have. Most of all do not pretend to like a person when there is no love in your heart. But do not underestimate the power of love, which survives in the most terrible of circumstances. Defer to the wisdom of the older generation. Develop a strong character that will help you to survive the things that are difficult, but do not imagine bad things that may never happen - you may be thinking of such things because you are tired or lonely.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.
Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Do not be overly self-critical. You are part of an all-encompassing universe and no less important than any other component within it. You may not realise this, but there is a purpose for us all

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be happy.

Accept the reality of God, or a greater power than human, whatever you imagine 'Him' to be. Maintain a clear conscience. Despite the things that do not go the way we want, the world is still beautiful. Remain cheerful and, most of all, put your best efforts into being happy.

I close as a mum, with a birthday weekend ahead for my daughter. I am sure I speak for many when I say that my greatest achievement has been my daughter and my son. My second has been being entrusted with the daughters and sons of so many parents, for the last 42 years and counting.

Have a great and safe weekend, and be your best selves
Ngā mihi

Kiri



Kiri with her children -
Eden and Callum

Boarding

Kia Ora Koutou.

With the beautiful weather last weekend, it was a perfect chance for a small group of boarders to head out and about with the House Manager, Mrs Priestley. On Saturday, the girls went to Molewood Orchard in Greytown to pick apples and before heading back to school, went to visit these very cute puppies.

Thanks to our lovely Year 11 dorm leaders, Abbey Upshon and Sophia Bosch for organising a pizza and movie night for our Year 7-9 boarders. It was a great opportunity for a quick tour of Hampton House before enjoying pizzas and a chat about the Boarding Values.

As we head into the final week, please read the end of term information below-

- All girls must have an "End of Term Leave Pass".
- All girls must pack up and clean their room at the end of each term.
- Before signing out, girls must have their room checked off by a boarding staff member.
- Parents/ caregivers can collect belongings from 2.30pm next Thursday, but all girls must attend the Easter Service which runs from 2-3pm.
- Both boarding houses will closed at 5pm on Thursday 2nd April.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Have a great weekend.

Ngā mihi.

Jo



Integrated Activity Schedule

Integrated Activities Schedule

Week 9 - Term 1

Monday Mar 30th - Sunday Apr 5th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Itinerant Teachers Onsite	Deborah Percy (Voice) David Heath (Drums)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)	GOOD FRIDAY! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!		
Before School / All Day	<u>St George's School Primary Summer Sport Fixture @ St George's School Whanganui</u> Depart Main House 8.10am, Return approx 4.15pm						
During School	P1,2,3 Shakespeare @ Kuranui College	<u>1:15-2:00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall) TBC</u>	<u>1:30-2:00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite)</u>	<u>1:15-2:00pm Kapa Haka (Music Suite)</u>			
	<u>1.10-1.55pm Junior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</u>	Swimming pool open - lunch time	Swimming Pool open - lunch time	Swimming pool open - lunch time			
	Swimming Pool open - Lunch time	<u>Netball Trials Primary 1.15pm SMS Gym</u>	<u>Netball Trials Primary 1.15pm SMS Gym</u>				
After School	<u>3.30pm - 4.15pm - Tennis - lessons Starlings and Slicers</u> <u>4.15pm - 5pm Tennis lessons - Aces and hitters</u> <u>5pm - 6pm Regional 1,2+3 Tennis Training</u>	<u>Netball Yr 9-10 Trials @ Colombo Rd Courts 3.30-5.30pm Van leaves 3.15pm, pick up 5.40pm</u>	<u>3.30-4.15pm Senior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</u>	<u>4:00-5:30pm Schola Cantorum (Hall)</u>			
	<u>3.30-4.15pm Swim Club @ St Matts pool</u>	<u>Netball Yr 11-13 Trials @ Colombo Rd Courts 5-6pm Van leaves 4.40pm, pick up 6.10pm</u>	<u>3.20-4.30pm Poly Group with Heaven in Music Suite</u>				
	<u>3.15pm-4.30pm Futsal @ WaiCol turf SMS vs MC Black 3.30pm Rathkeale 3pm, Main house 3.15pm, pick up 4.15pm</u>	<u>6pm Shakespeare @ Kuranui College Sheila Win Shakespeare Festival</u>	<u>Hockey Trials Yr9-13 (not in 1st & 2nd XI) @Clareville Turf 4-5.30pm Van Leaves 3.30pm, Pick up 5.30pm</u>				
	<u>Hockey Trials 1st & 2nd XI @Clareville Turf 4-5.30pm Bus depart 3.30pm</u>						

Live Integrated Activity sheet - available on our website:
<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/newsletters/>

Around School

The photos below show the planters that the Friends of St Matthew's donated. Potatoes were grown and delivered to the food room by Kiera McKenzie.



Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

In the busyness of Term 1, it is easy for our ākongā to feel that their value is a score they must constantly earn. We often measure "favour" by likes, grades, or gold stars. However, our Anglican Special Character tells a different story.

The Pattern of Grace

In Scripture, "finding favour" was never about being the most polished. When the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary, he didn't praise her achievements; he revealed her inherent mana:

"Kua kitea hoki e koe he tāpuitanga mōhou i te Atua."
"For you have found favour with God." — Ruka (Luke) 1:30

Historically, favour (charis or grace) was a gift given, not a trophy won. It was the tūāpapa (foundation) of a life, not the destination at the top of a ladder.

For our students in 2026, finding favour means moving from "earning" to "receiving." It is the quiet realisation that their worth is already settled. As Te Waiata (Psalm) 5:12 reminds us:

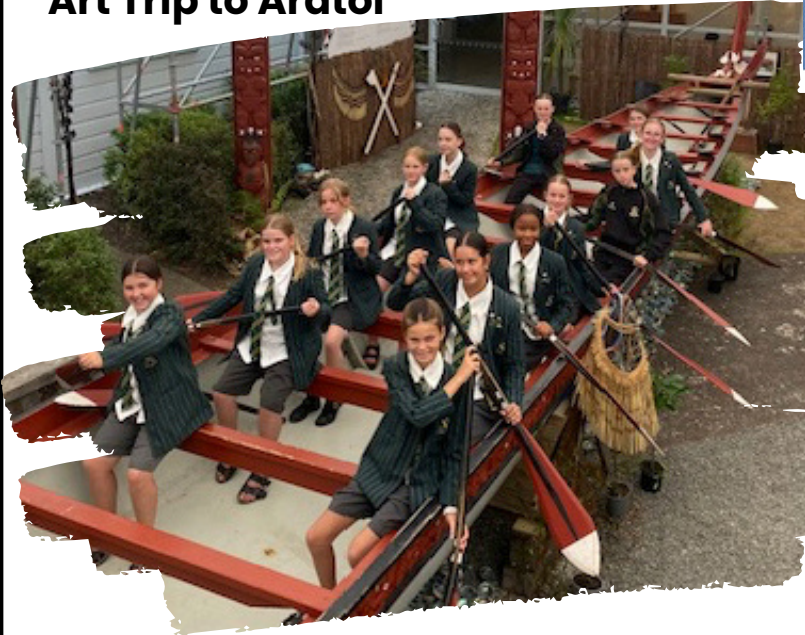
"Ka whakapuni hoki e koe te pai ki a ia, anō he whakangungu rākau."
"You surround them with your favour as with a shield."

In our kura, we strive for angitu (success), but we ground it in Ngākau Tapatahi—an integrity of heart that knows we are loved before we ever achieve a single thing. Let us provide the tautoko that allows our girls to walk with confidence, shielded by grace.

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki,
(May God bless you all)



Art Trip to Aratoi



Year 8 art students had a great trip to Aratoi on Wednesday to see the Kurahaupō waka and attend a workshop where they learned the magical process of cyanotype - making photograms using cut outs, simple chemicals, and light.



St Matthew's Collegiate School



OPEN AFTERNOON

Thursday 7th May 2.00pm-5.00pm

Day & Boarding School for Girls Years 7-13



www.stmatts.school.nz



New Principal

Introducing Nick Oldham

Nick will join Rathkeale at the start of 2027. In the meantime our Acting Principal, Adam Gordon, will continue to lead the school.

St Matthew's Collegiate would like to formally welcome Rathkeale's new Principal Nick Oldham who will be joining our trinity schools in 2027.

We look forward to continuing to work alongside Mr Adam Gordon for the remainder of 2026



Athletics Success

Congratulations to Lucia and Esther who have gained medals at the Athletics Wellington Junior Championships.

Well done to:

- Lucia Opie – grade 11 – 100m Silver and 200m Bronze
- Esther Gleeson – grade 12 – 800m Silver and 80m hurdles Bronze.

Both run for the Featherston Athletics Club

SMS WINTER SPORT TRIALS

FOOTBALL @ SMS FIELD YR 9-13
29/3/26 SUNDAY 5-7PM
31/3/26 TUESDAY 3.30-4.45PM (BACK UP & INVITE ONLY)

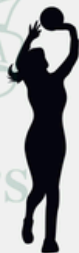


HOCKEY

1ST & 2ND XI @ CLAREVILLE TURF
29/3/26 SUNDAY 2-4PM
30/3/26 MONDAY 4-5.30PM -BUS TO DEPART @ 3.30PM
YR 9-13 TRIALS (NOT IN 1ST & 2ND XI) @ CLAREVILLE TURF
4-5.30PM WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL
VAN LEAVES MAIN HOUSE 3.30PM, PICK UP 5.30PM

NETBALL

YR 11-13 (+ INVITED JUNIORS) @ COLOMBO ROAD NETBALL COURTS
29/3/26 SUNDAY 6-8PM
31/3/26 TUESDAY 5-6PM (OUTSIDE COURTS)
YR 9-10 @ COLOMBO ROAD NETBALL COURTS
29/3/26 SUNDAY 3.30-5.30PM
31/3/26 TUESDAY 3.30-5.30PM (OUTSIDE COURTS)
PRIMARY @ SMS GYM
31/3/26 TUESDAY LUNCH TIME 1.15PM
1/4/26 WEDNESDAY LUNCH TIME 1.15PM



STUDENTS TO HAVE OWN TRANSPORT ARRANGED TO TRAVEL BETWEEN TRIALS IF NECESSARY.
IF YOU HAVE ANY CLASHES WITH TRIALS
PLEASE EMAIL JOANNA.WALLACE@TRINITYSCHOOLS.NZ



Easter fun in the Food Room
Here are Year 7 students Fuschia, Pippa and Cate.
Happy Easter

WINTER UNIFORM

UNIFORM INFORMATION:

[HTTPS://WWW.STMATTS.SCHOOL.NZ/PARENTS/UNIFORM/](https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/)

The St Matthew's uniform shop is currently well stocked with second hand winter uniform. Uniform shop 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 or sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz Payment in the shop at the time of sale by EFTPOS or credit card only. The uniform shop is not open during the school holidays but will be open as usual on the last afternoon: Sunday 19th April 2pm – 5pm.

SMOGA Grants Now Open!

The St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA) is delighted to open applications for two exciting student opportunities

Outward Bound Grant – A \$2,500 grant (incl. GST) toward an 8-day or 21-day Teen Outward Bound course.
Apply here: <https://forms.gle/GWIRJ4qiwJ4tCboK7>

Spirit of Adventure Grant – A fully funded voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand.
Apply here: <https://forms.gle/xDER84v7JRyi2b9Y8>

These grants are open to current students in Years 11–13 who are either daughters, nieces, or granddaughters of SMOGA members, or who join SMOGA as part of the application process.

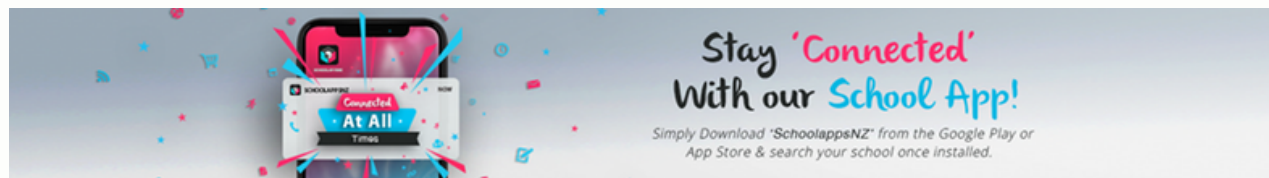
For full details, please visit: www.stmatts.school.nz/academic/scholarships/



Please click below the link to the NZ Union Feedback survey
[NZ Uniform Feedback Survey](#)

Filming of international student video

Over the next two weeks we will be filming footage (including with a drone) at St Matthew's and at Senior College to use in a promotional video for international students. If you have any concerns about your daughter appearing in this video, please contact lucy.clearwater@trinityschools.nz.



Key Dates:

Monday 30 March – St George Primary Summer Fixture
Tuesday 31 March – Sheila Winn Shakespeare
Wednesday 1 April – Yr10 Social Studies Trip
Thursday 2 April – Last Day of Term, Easter Service
Monday 20 April – First Day of Term Two

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

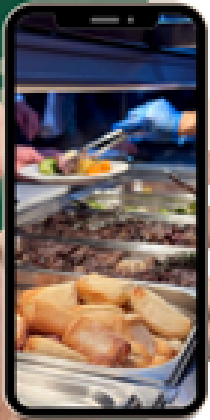




What's on the menu this week?



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



YOUR EDUCATION
High School Exchanges

\$6,950

Brazil

SHORT TERM PROGRAMME
18 JULY - 26 AUGUST 2026

- Attend real Brazilian high school classes
- Stay with a carefully selected host family
- Join sustainability, leadership & intercultural workshops
- Make lifelong friendships

LIVE. LEARN. LEAD. IN BRAZIL.

Spend 30 unforgettable days in Brazil as part of an official international programme sponsored by the Government of the State of São Paulo — the largest public school system in Latin America!

This is more than an exchange. It's a cultural, academic, and leadership adventure designed to help you become a true global citizen.

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Accommodation & meals with a carefully selected and screened host family
- Local transport
- All educational activities
- Learning materials
- Official certificate + SDG digital badge
- International flights (ex-Auckland)
- Travel insurance
- Thorough preparation and orientation
- 24 hour support

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 MAY 2026 APPLY NOW! SPACES ARE LIMITED.

www.youreducation.co.nz
@youreducationexchanges

YOUR EDUCATION
High School Exchanges



Hockey Wairarapa, thanks to funding from Nuka Ora, are able to provide a FREE holiday programme for young aspiring hockey players to Learn to Hockey.

They are running four sessions daily on the 6th, 9th and 10th of April and the following week on the 13th, 16th and 17th of April. Starting with Year 1 and 2's at 10.00am, Years 3 and 4 at 11.00am, Years 5 and 6 at 1.00pm and finishing with Year 7 and 8 at 2,00pm

We are asking participants to enter PlayerHQ and register in their age group. The first fifty in each age group will be accepted.



Pasifika
O WAIRARAPA TRUST

PASEFIKA STUDY HUB THURSDAYS

Yr7 - Yr13

from 3:30pm - 5:15pm!

Yr7 - Yr13

Professional Assitance provided Snacks Provided !!

Yr7 - Yr13

Homework to catch up on! Need Help!

23 Intermediate Street
Contact: 0800 727 924
www.pw.org.nz

Pasifika
O WAIRARAPA TRUST