

SMCS STAR BOARD



Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK NINE

Kia Ora Koutou,

This morning a parent contacted me with some fundraising ideas, as she is proactively looking ahead to upcoming tournaments and their associated costs. My immediate reaction was, quite simply, "go you" – because being a volunteer in any school is a significant time commitment and, dare I say it, often means time away from your own loved ones and work. If we speak of ourselves as a school of service, then parents who give that service through volunteering model exactly what that looks like in action – and for that, thank you.

So, a huge thank you to our parents and whānau who so generously give their time to support our school. I am acutely aware that there are many more who would assist if they could, so if you are still wondering how you might help: connect with the school directly, with the sports department, with the Friends of St Matthew's, with St Matthew's Old Girls' Association, with the church, or with teachers if what your daughters are doing in class resonates in some way.

Whether you're helping in classrooms, coaching teams, supporting trips, fundraising, or quietly pitching in behind the scenes, your contribution makes a real difference for our ākonga. We truly value the partnership we share with you and are deeply grateful for the care, commitment, and heart you bring to our school community. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival

People often forget the "h" in Sheilah, and while it may seem a small detail, it matters. Getting it right reflects the care, accuracy, and respect we expect of ourselves as learners and scholars. Attention to such detail sits at the heart of Shakespeare's work – language choices matter, words matter, names matter.

My passion for Shakespeare comes not only from personal affection, but from a deep belief in its place in our curriculum. Shakespeare challenges students to think critically, listen closely, speak precisely, and engage with complex human ideas – skills that serve them well far beyond the stage or classroom.

That belief was affirmed again last night with Trinity teams, including the St Matthew's onsite group, receiving the Best Ensemble Award, and Bonnie Noble being recognised with the Speech and Drama Teachers' Award for Delivery of Shakespeare's Text. For those who remember Bursary English, I also spent three years as a chief marker for Shakespeare, and those experiences only deepened my appreciation of the power of the text when taught and performed well.

Huge thanks to Tim Clarke, Samara Wood, Johnathan Watt and all other people who **H**elped. So yes – the "H" matters.



Closing words from Assembly

I want to thank my prefects who volunteered to join me in my assembly delivery yesterday which called upon **Desiderata** (again). Being beside them was a poignant moment and going forward I will try to find longer text, so they all have the chance to stand beside me.

Together we sent this message that as we come to the end of the term, we want to leave us all with a few simple thoughts to carry into the holidays.

This term has been full – of learning, pressure, friendships, challenges, successes, and moments that did not quite go as planned. That is life. Before we step into a break that allows time to rest and reset, it is worth pausing for a moment.

The holidays are not just about stopping work. They are about **regaining perspective**.

Life can be noisy. Days are busy. Opinions are everywhere. Over the break, try to find moments of quiet – moments where you are not comparing yourself to others, not rushing, not measuring your worth by achievement alone. Everyone you meet is carrying something you cannot see.

You do not need to compete with anyone else's journey. There will always be people ahead of you and people behind you. What matters is that you continue to grow – thoughtfully, honestly, and in your own time. Be proud of what you have achieved this term, and hopeful about what lies ahead.

Whatever you are learning, working towards, or still figuring out, it matters. The world can be complicated, and not always fair, but it is also full of quiet goodness – of people showing courage, kindness, and integrity every day without recognition. Notice that.

Be yourself. You are not required to perform, pretend, or be someone you are not. Relationships – with friends, whānau, teachers, teammates – are a source of strength. Let them support you, especially when things feel uncertain.

Growing up takes time. You do not need all the answers yet. Be gentle with yourself, particularly when you are tired or overwhelmed. Strength is not about pushing endlessly; it is about knowing when to rest.

You matter. You belong. You have a right to be here – exactly as you are. Even when life does not make sense, things continue to unfold, often in ways we only understand later.

As you head into the holidays, take care of yourselves and one another. Rest well. Be kind. And remember – despite its challenges, this is still a beautiful world.

Ngā mihi

Phil

Happy
Easter

Be Kind

TAKE CARE
OF YOURSELF

Boarding

Kia Ora Koutou.

Thank you to our boarding whānau for your support of boarding at St Matthew's. We have had an excellent Term 1 which we celebrated last night at our End of Term Boarders' Dinner. A big thank you to all boarding staff, our Year 13 and Year 11 boarding leaders, our Term 1 Head of House Grace Jaspers, and our boarding prefect Ruby Ferguson for their contribution to our boarding culture.

Sadly, today we farewell Miss Emma MacIver who has been one of our lovely Assistant House Managers. Emma has always brought a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to her role, and the girls have enjoyed her sense of humour. We wish Emma all the very best for her next position where she will continue to work alongside youth.

A reminder that both Main and Hampton House close for the holiday period at 5pm today and reopen at 3pm on Sunday 19th April. Please note that all boarders (full, weekly and part time) are expected to return by 5pm on the Sunday.

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter break.

Ngā mihi.

Jo



**St Matthew's Collegiate School for Girls is seeking a
Fixed-Term Part-Time Assistant House Manager (Matron)**

to help care for boarding students in a warm, values-led environment. The role involves supporting daily routines, wellbeing, and activities, with regular term time only Thursday 2:30pm – 10pm shift and/or a Friday 6:45am – 8:30am shift, plus occasional casual hours. Applications close at 12pm on 10 April 2026.

Please apply via Seek – link to the position:

<https://nz.seek.com/matron-jobs/in-masterton?jobId=91088919&type=standard>

Integrated Activity Schedule

Sport Schedule

Week 1 - Term 2

Monday Apr 20th - Sunday Apr 26th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day							
During School	1.10-1.55pm Junior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus						
After School	1st XI Hockey vs WGC 6pm at Maidstone Park Transport tbc	1st XI Football Training 3.30-5pm @ SMS	3.30-4.15pm Senior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus				

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

Best wishes



We wish Mrs Shearing all the very best during her sabbatical in Terms 2 and 3. We hope she enjoys some well-deserved time for herself and every success with the courses she is undertaking.

We warmly welcome Mr Jorge Sandoval, who will be joining us for Terms 2 and 3. Thank you, Jorge, for stepping into the role of Sports Coordinator—we are pleased to have you with us.

≡ Welcome ≡

Around School

NZSS Tennis Champs

Gabriella Nicholson and George Farman are National Champs. They won the mixed doubles at the NZ Secondary School Tennis Championship.



Zena Cole- Despite hurdles Zena competed at the last few events of the Drag Racing season and came very close to overall winning a competition. She was 3rd overall in the New Zealand Drag Racing Association Competition Round at Masterton Motor Complex in Outlaw Jnr Dragster on 28th February 2026, Junior Dragster 496. This is open to any competitor in New Zealand, with the appropriate Racing licence and are under 19 years of age. She also won two out of three races at the Top Competition under 19 at the New Zealand Junior Championship Event at Meremere, Waikato 22nd Feb 2026 but narrowly missed out making the final.

NZ Drag Racing



NISS Athletics Champs

Anzelle Gouws represented the Wairarapa at the North Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in Auckland last weekend. She qualified for the finals and came 3rd in 100m and 4th in 200m

A poster for the SMCS Winter Sport Codes Coaches and Managers Meeting. The text reads: "SMCS WINTER SPORT CODES", "COACHES AND MANAGERS MEETING", "TUESDAY 21 APRIL 5.00 - 6.00PM". There are images of athletes in action on the left and right sides of the poster.

Sheilah Winn Festival of Shakespeare 2026

This year's Shakespeare Festival took place at Kuranui College on Tuesday 31 March – the last Tuesday of a term that was only nine weeks long. To meet the challenge of this timeframe, auditions were held at the start of the second week, with rehearsals starting immediately. Over weeks that followed, a large cast of 27 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 rehearsed a 15 minute scene drawn from the opening of Romeo and Juliet.

After fighting in the streets, the Montague and Capulet families are warned by Prince Escalus not to disturb the peace. The crowd disperses, and Romeo arrives. Benvolio learns that Romeo's love for Rosaline is not returned, and to divert his mind from the pain of rejection, persuades him to go to the Capulet ball and look at "other beauties". However, Romeo remains convinced of Rosaline's superiority – that is, until he meets Juliet, and love strikes.

In the adjudication that followed the performance of all the scenes, The St Matthew's cast received an award for their Ensemble work. Bonnie Noble, in the Senior College scene won the Speech and Drama Teachers' Award for the delivery of Shakespeare's text. The overall winners, whose scene goes to the National Festival, were Kuranui College.

Thanks go to the cast for their hard work, and to the directors, Mr Clarke and Miss Wood for their role in bringing yet another Shakespearean scene to the stage.

Chorus	Katya Shi
Sampson	Zena Cole
Gregory	Rosie Heaton
Abram	Aleisha O'Gorman
Servingman 1	Charlotte Johnson
Servingman 2	Elise Dry
Benvolio	Rosalie Hardie
Tybalt	Charlotte Jaspers
Mercutio	Emma Richardson
Prince	Ada Wilkie
Guard	Tilly Giesen
Guard	Ella-May Hoani-Donnelly
Capulet	Isabelle Olds
Lady Capulet	Rita Kruger
Montague	Matilda Philips
Lady Montague	Elizabeth Andrew
Romeo	Tess McKenzie
Juliet	Katherine Squires
Nurse	Jolie Tang
Dancers	Willow Kershaw
	Phoebe Gray
	Maya Rosenbach
	Sophie Huzziff
	Isla Smith
	Francesca Bond
	Sarcha Anderson
	Maggie Shi

**Directors: Tim Clarke
Samara Wood**



Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

As we move toward the most sacred days of our Christian calendar, Holy Week, we are invited to walk a path of transformation—from the heavy silence of the cross to the joy of the empty tomb.

Good Friday: Te Mamae me te Atawhai (Pain and Grace)

On Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross. It is a day of houkura (solemnity), where we acknowledge the brokenness of our world and the depth of God's love. In the Anglican tradition, this is not a day of defeat, but of ultimate aroha (love).

"Nā te mea he pēnei te aroha o te Atua ki te ao..." "For God so loved the world..." — Hoani (John) 3:16

In the quiet of this day, we find that even in our darkest moments of pōuri (sadness) or struggle, God is present. The cross is the ultimate scaffold for our faith; it reminds our ākongā (students) that they are never alone in their challenges.



Resurrection Sunday: Te Tihi o te Ora (The Pinnacle of Life)

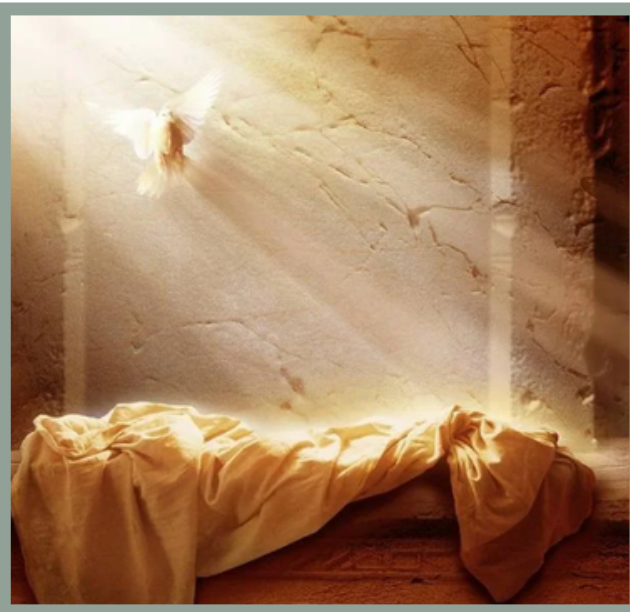
Easter Sunday is our Great "Yes." It is the celebration of Hāpure (Resurrection)—the moment when death is defeated and hope is made new. It is the manawa (heartbeat) of our school's Special Character.

"Kua ara aia! Kāhore ia i konei." "He has risen! He is not here." — Mareko (Mark) 16:6

Resurrection is the ultimate angitu (success). It tells our ākongā that failure never has the final word and that new beginnings are always possible. As a community, we celebrate this tipuranga (growth) and the light that shines in every student.

May this Easter season bring a sense of rongo (peace) to your whānau and may we all return with a renewed wairua (spirit), ready for the journey ahead.

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



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



ANZAC Day Service

DATE: WED 22 APRIL

TIME: 8.10AM

**LOCATION: CLEGHORN
(ST MATTHEW'S SCHOOL HALL)**

We would like to warmly invite all families with military or forces connections to join us for our ANZAC Day Service.

This special service will honour and remember the courage and sacrifices made by our servicemen and women, both past and present.

**WE WOULD BE HONOURED TO HAVE YOU WITH US
AS WE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO
COMMEMORATE ANZAC DAY.**

**RSVP: Please confirm your attendance by contacting
sm.principalspa@trinityschools.nz
to help us with preparations for the service.**

Uniform shop hours for week 1 of term 2:

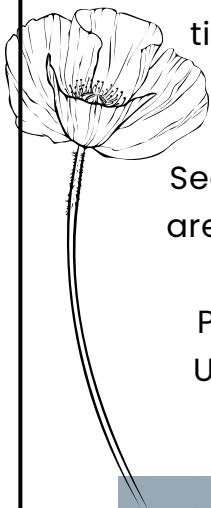
The St Matthew's shop will open as usual on the last afternoon of the school holidays, Sunday 19th April 2pm – 5pm.

Extra openings in first week of term 2: After school on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st & Wednesday 22nd April.

Usual shop hours during term time: 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

Second hand winter sports uniforms (netball, hockey and some football) are available to buy at the St Matthew's shop. New hockey/football socks @\$24.00 are available at the St Matthew's shop and NZ Uniforms.

Payment in the shop at the time of sale by EFTPOS or credit card only. Uniform information: <https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/>



Stay 'Connected'
With our School App!

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

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/



Key Dates:

Monday 13 April – Wed 15 – Scots Netball Camp

Wednesday 15 April – WaiCol PreSeason –
Hockey/Football

Monday 20 April – First Day of Term Two

Tuesday 21 April – Yr11 Geo Trip

Wednesday 22 April – ANZAC Assembly

Thursday 23 April – Trinity Service

Saturday 25 April – Exeat Weekend / Duke of Ed
Bronze Qualifer

Monday 27 April – ANZAC Day Obs.

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.



RATHKEALE COLLEGE 1ST XI CRICKET PRESENTS:



CALLING ALL SHAZZA'S & DAZZA'S!

Grab your mullet, dress in black & join us for an unforgettable night of rocking out to great tunes, naughty number calls, air guitar solos and straight-up bogan hilarity.



FRIDAY 8 MAY

Wairarapa Events Centre,
Carterton
6pm-10pm

Tickets \$39 per person or \$390 for a table of 10
Includes food and 4 bingo cards per person.

Cash Bar & Eftpos available.

Secure your table at boganbingofundraiser@gmail.com

Prizes for best dressed!

Little Explorers Big Adventures!



Take part in the
Lil' Explorers Trail
this school holidays!

- By completing the trail, your little explorer is in to win an Overnight Nature Experience valued at \$295!
- Lil' Explorers Trail is free with admission to Ngā Manu.
- Open daily 10am - 5pm

ngamanu.org.nz

74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road
Waikanae



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please let us know
if your contact
details have
changed



sm.office@trinityschools.nz

or complete a change
request through KAMAR