

SMCS STAR BOARD



Principal's Message

TERM TWO, WEEK FIVE

Kia Ora Koutou,

As we move further into the term, we find ourselves holding a number of things at once—learning, assessment, and a full winter sports programme. It's been great to see our students involved, giving things a go, and working alongside one another as part of a team.

Whether in sport or in the classroom, these are the moments where belonging grows—through participation, shared effort, and supporting those around us.

NCEA Replacement

The Government has now confirmed further detail regarding the replacement of NCEA, with implementation beginning in 2028 through a staged introduction of new qualifications at Years 11–13.

The key shifts are:

- A move to a more structured, subject-based qualifications system (a minimum of five subjects studied, with at least three passed)
- Introduction of a universal A–E grading scale
- A requirement for both internal and external assessment in all subjects
- A Year 11 Foundational Award focused on literacy and numeracy, which becomes a prerequisite for subsequent qualifications

These changes align with the rollout of a knowledge-rich curriculum and reinforce greater consistency across the system.

From a school perspective, this direction is not unexpected. It reflects the pathway already signalled, with the most significant shift being the repositioning of Year 11 as a foundational academic year—one that places greater emphasis on depth of learning and preparing students well for Years 12 and 13.

At this stage, there is no immediate impact on how we are operating. There is still more detail to come, particularly around assessment rules and university entrance. We will continue to monitor this closely and keep our community well informed.

What I do want to reassure you of is this: St Matthew's is well placed for these changes. The strength of our teaching, our focus on strong foundations, and the way we already support students to learn deeply means we are building on what we already do well.

What's Current for Us

Alongside looking ahead, it's also important to stay grounded in what's happening day to day in our school.

You may have heard plenty this week about our bell-to-bell phone expectations. Like many schools, we are continuing to strengthen this. The purpose is simple—to create calm, focused classrooms where students are present, engaged, and able to connect with their learning and with one another. As with any shift, it takes time, but we are seeing positive progress as students adjust.

Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)

At the same time, students are working through a range of **Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)** alongside their internal assessments. CAAs are nationally set assessments designed to give a consistent picture of how students are progressing, particularly in literacy and numeracy. This is a demanding part of the term, where organisation, persistence, and good habits really matter.

Our expectation is that students approach these assessments well prepared and complete them successfully. Where needed, there will be further opportunities to demonstrate their learning, ensuring all students have the chance to meet the required standard.

What sits underneath this—and our work around phones—is the same idea. We are asking students to make choices. Sometimes these are small, like putting a phone away. At other times they are bigger, like preparing well for assessment and managing their workload.

Those choices shape not only their own success, but the experience of others around them.

Belonging and Something Bigger

On Wednesday morning, our students experienced assembly a little differently—and in many ways, it reflected exactly what we are asking of them right now.

Rather than sitting in rows and listening, they were invited to show something.

Starting in their House groups, each group worked together to form the first letter of their House using their bodies, guided by their Prefects. It didn't need to be perfect—just clear and bold.

What we saw first was each House—distinct, separate, with its own identity. And that matters. Our Houses are where belonging begins.

But then we asked students to move.

They shifted, adjusted, and worked with others beyond their immediate group—and suddenly something else appeared. Not separate letters, but one shared identity: St Matthew's.

That simple moment captured something important.



This school works best when we hold both things at the same time. Yes, each student belongs to her House. But she also belongs to something bigger.

And that “something bigger” isn’t just the buildings or the traditions. It is what we create together –how we include each other, how we respond when something isn’t right, how we carry ourselves day to day.

On Wednesday, students had to move. Some gave up their place, adjusted their position, or stepped slightly out of their comfort zone so that something larger could take shape.

That is exactly what a strong community requires.

Not standing still. Not only doing what is easy. But being willing to move for something bigger than ourselves.

As we move through the rest of the term, this is something we will continue to build on.

You are part of your House.

But more importantly—you are part of St Matthew’s.

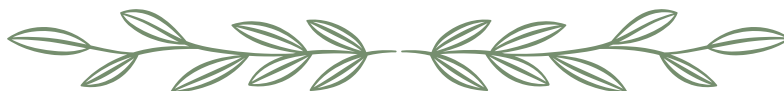
And what that feels like—what that looks like—is built, every day, by you.

In closing

As we move from Week 5 into Week 6, I wish you all a safe and restful weekend in between.

Be your best selves

Ngā Mihi



Stay POSITIVE

ST MATTHEW'S
TRINITY SCHOOLS
ST MATTHEW'S

Respect the Officials: Referees and umpires are often volunteers. Accept all decisions graciously and remember they are learning just like the players.

Support Everyone: Cheer positively for good play, regardless of which team makes it. Respect opposing players, coaches, and their families.

Let Them Play: Remember it is the players' game. Allow them the space to shine, make mistakes, and learn from the experience.

Boarding ... and Sickbay

Kia Ora Koutou.

Well, it is certainly that time of the year when students can start to pick up every cough and cold that is going around school. For those of you who don't know, our school sickbay is in the boarding house and is managed by boarding staff.

As we have had relatively high numbers of both day and boarding students visiting sickbay recently, I thought it could be helpful to explain how sickbay works at St Matthew's.

Boarders

If a boarder feels unwell in the morning before school, they must inform the House Manager on duty so a plan can be made for the morning. The plan will either involve-
Go to school knowing that they can return if they still feel unwell

Stay in bed and rest, then reassess at interval

Staff call home and ask for a family member to come and collect them

Daygirls

If a daygirl genuinely feels unwell before school, please keep your daughter home. We often get girls who have been dropped off when they really are not well enough to be in class and around others. If parents feel students are well enough to come to school but they deteriorate as the day progresses, they must go to the school office and sign out for sickbay. Once at sickbay a plan will be made as it would for boarding students as to what needs to happen next.

Any student in sickbay will not have access to their phone or their device. If we need to call home that will be done by a staff member off the boarding phone. Please note if students are very sick, parents will be contacted.

Lastly, sometimes students end up in sickbay when they are not actually sick but perhaps their day has not got off to a good start. Please encourage your daughter to be honest with us so we can best cater to her needs. Our lovely Guidance Counsellor Georgie Reid is just down the hallway from sickbay so at times a visit to Georgie is what is needed. Let's hope everyone has a good rest over the weekend so they can return well and ready to go for the week ahead!

Ngā mihi.

Jo



Sport Schedule

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

Sport Schedule

Week 6 - Term 2

Section / All Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				Primary Scots Fixture CSW Regional Cross Country			
During School	Hockey Gold Training 3-1.45pm @ SMS Turf Junior Dance Troupe 1.10-1.55pm @ Lazarus	Football Jnr Pent Team Training 1.15-1.50pm @ SMS Field Hockey Primary Sticks Training 1.15-1.50pm Hockey Jnr Pent Team Training 1.10 - 1.50pm	Netball Snr Green Training 1.15-1.50pm @ SMS Gym Netball Jnr Black Training 1.15-1.50pm @SMS Courts Netball Jnr Pent Team Training 1.15-1.50 @ SMS Gym	Hockey Primary Stars Training 1.15-1.50pm	Netball Jnr Pent Team Training 3-1.50pm @ SMS Gym Hockey Green Training Lunchtime at Rathkeale	Netball Games @ Colombo Road Courts SMS Jnr Silver vs TBC SMS Green vs TBC SMS Jnr Gold vs TBC	
After School	1st XI Football Training 3.30-5pm @ SMS Field Football Trainings @ SMS Field Stars 3.30-4.30pm Steel 3.30-4.30pm Football Goalie Training 4-4.30 @ SMS Field	Football Games SMS 1st XI vs SMS Stars @ SMS 3.45pm SMS Steel vs Chanel @ Chanel 3.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, Pick up 5.10pm SMS Strikers vs Solway 2nd XI @ Solway 3.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, Pick up 5.10pm SMS Saints vs Kuranui @SMS 3.45pm	Senior Dance Troupe 3.30-4.15pm @ Lazarus	Primary Football Ferns Game vs MIS Whero @ SMS 3.45pm	Netball Games @ Colombo Rd Courts Snr A vs TBC SMS Development vs TBC	Netball Games @ Colombo Road Courts SMS Stars vs TBC SMS Jnr Pink vs TBC SMS 12s vs TBC SMS Jnr White vs TBC SMS 13s vs TBC SMS Yellow vs TBC SMS Jnr Black vs TBC	
	Netball Primary Kiwikiwi Training 3.45-4.45pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Primary Kowhai Training 3.30-4.30 @ SMS Outside Courts Hockey Games @ Clarendale Turf SMS Gold vs Solway College Girls 1st XI 5.30pm @ Clarendale Turf Van departs 4.45pm, Pick up 6pm SMS Green vs McKenzies Electrical Wairarapa College Girls 3rd XI 4pm @ Clarendale Turf Van departs 3.15pm, Pick up 5pm SMS 2nd XI vs Kuranui 1st XI 7pm @ Clarendale Turf Van Departs 6.15pm, Pick up 8pm Hockey 1st XI Training 4.30-6pm @ SMS Turf	Rifle Shooting @ Masterton Miniature rifle club Van depart 6.20, Pick up 8.30	Netball Development Training 5-6.30pm @ SMS Gym Netball Snr Yellow Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Gym Hockey 2nd XI Training 6-7pm @ Clarendale Turf	Squash @ Red Star Squash Courts 3.30-4.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, pick up 4.50pm Netball Jnr Pink Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Gym Netball Jnr Gold training 3.30-5pm @ SMS Gym Netball Primary kakariki Training 3.45-4.45pm @ SMS Outside Courts Netball Jnr White Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Outside courts Netball Jnr Silver Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Outside courts Netball Snr A 5.30-7pm @ SMS Gym	Primary Hockey Games @ Clarendale Turf. St Matt's Sticks vs Kia Kaha Pango 6pm on Field 1 Southern Turf Van departs 5.15pm, Pick up 7pm St Matt's Stars vs Lakeview Remutaka 5pm on Field 1 Southern Turf Van departs 4.15pm, Pick up 6pm		
	Badminton @ SMS Gym 3.30-4.30pm	Hockey 1st XI Training 5-6.30pm Van departs 4.30pm, pick up 6.40pm	Football Primary Ferns Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Fields	Hockey Game Hockey 1st XI vs Whanganui Collegiate Girls 1st XI @ Hockey Manawatu 4pm Vans departs 1.30pm			

St Matthew's Collegiate Sport Results

Week 4 Term 2

	Opponent	Score
Hockey		
Primary Sticks vs	SM Strikers	Loss 5-2
Primary Stars vs	Solway College Intermediate	Win 5-0
Green	Solway 2nd XI	Loss 5-0
Gold	Kuranui 1st XI	Loss 3-0
2nd XI	Waicol 2nd XI	Draw 1-1
1st XI	Waicol	Loss 2-0
Football		
Primary Ferns vs	Lakeview	Win 2-0
Saints	Makoura College	Loss 5-0
Steel	Waicol Development	Loss 3-0
Stars	Chanel College	Loss 4-1
Strikers	BYE	
1st XI	BYE	
Netball		
Primary Kowhai vs	Hadlow Sting	Loss 23-12
Primary Kiwikiwi vs	MIS Steel	Loss 13-7
Primary Kakariki vs	Chanel College	Win 9-3
Jnr Gold vs	Waicol Snr Blue	Win 19-12
Jnr Silver vs	Makoura Jnr B	Win 26-10
Jnr Pink vs	BYE	N/A
Jnr White vs	Waicol Intermediate Blue	Loss 19-14
Jnr Black vs	Waicol Jnr Blue	Win 20-3
Snr Green vs	Solway College Green	Loss 15-14
Snr Yellow vs	Solway College Navy	Loss 15-16
Stars vs	Chanel Development	Win 15-9
13s vs	Solway College Silver	Loss 13-27
12s vs	Makoura Jnr A	Loss 9-37
Development vs	CNC JK&Co Maroon	Loss 14-22
Snr A vs	Strength Nation Masterton	Loss 61-25

Rifle shooting	Scores	
Elizabeth Andrew	84	73
Sasha Anderson		
Lily Boggs	64	
Thea Collinson		
Elsie Dry	72	
Fiona Ebbitt	72	
Ruby Ferguson	90.1	
Sophie Forbes	64	66
Audrey Hall	91.3	91.3
Brooke Jordan		
Willow Kershaw	34	
Michelle Koolman	57	50
Rita Kruger		
Eva MacManus	79.1	
Charlotte Macauley		
Charlotte McGregor		
Madison McKenzie	81	
Tess McKenzie		
Isabelle Olds	81	79.1
Tenley Richardson	64	79
Maya Rosenbach		
Katya Shi	80.2	80
Katherine Squires		
Ava Wilson	82.2	



Congratulations to Sofia Williams who has
 been chosen to represent
 NZ for the Youth Olympics 🇳🇿❤️

Model United Nations

Around School

A group of keen year 11-13 St Matthews and Rathkeale students attended the second annual Wairarapa Model United Nations event held at Mākoura College last week. Our students challenged themselves to represent their country accurately, and perform a prepared speech on their remits, as well as taking part in the open debate. This event involved a lot of background research about global politics and geography, as well as the workings of the United Nations. We would like to thank Mākoura College for hosting the event, and for the incredible welcome all the student delegates received. Also, thanks goes to Liz Verkleij for organising this amazing event.



TSTBs new online Trinity Schools Community Portal is now live.

The Trinity School Trust Board (TSTB) online Trinity Schools Community Portal is now live. If you have not registered yet you can get started here - <https://www.trinityschools.nz/apply/>.

The purpose of the portal is to keep our school community informed about the Trinity Futures initiative which is focused on future planning for our schools.

This week's topic - How do we honour the past while building the future. We have also added a FAQ section which can be found directly below the Portal Guidelines.

Cath Archer
CEO, TSTB

SELLING YOUR UNIFORM SECOND HAND

The St Matthew's Uniform Shop sells second hand uniform, on your behalf.

When an item of clothing sells, the shop retains a 30% commission, the amount owing to you is credited to your daughter's school account, this is done three times per year. For uniform that is sold after your daughter leaves, a bank account number, name of the account and email address will be required.

Clothing will get the best price when it is CLEAN; the Blazer, Tunic Dress and Senior Skirt should be dry cleaned. Please attend to discoloured underarms and collars before soaking white blouses in a stain removing laundry soaker (don't use bleach as this will fade the crest).

Uniform can be brought into the shop on Thursdays 1pm - 4pm during term time. Uniform may alternatively be left at the school office, marked "For Sale, attention UNIFORM SHOP"

Please make sure that it is securely boxed up, with your daughter's name included.

Ties & caps are sold second hand, but any money generated will be a donation to the shop.

ITEMS NOT SOLD SECOND HAND IN THE UNIFORM SHOP:

- Old style Hoodies
- Togs
- Hockey/Football socks
- Shoes & Sandals
- Black ankle Socks
- Old style PE tops & shorts

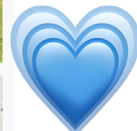
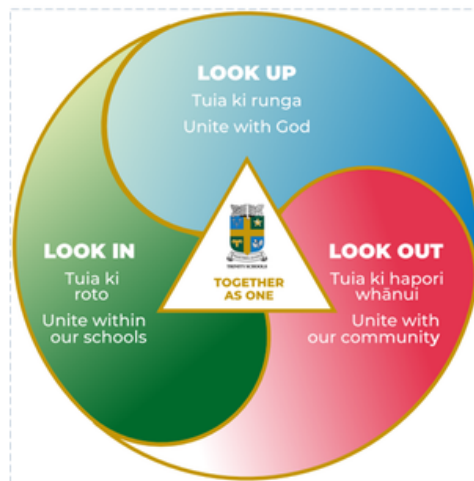
UNIFORM INFORMATION:

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

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

This week some of our Year 11 RE class, called IOU (In Out Up), had their first haerenga to Hadlow as part of our unit on "Looking In." Inspired by our Together As One Trinity motto, we are putting our whakapono into action by giving service to our Trinity of Schools whānau.

Our Year 11 ākonga gave support to the Hadlow students in their respective hubs, working alongside the tamariki and helping them with their learning. A wonderful time was had by all, and this day truly exemplified our Mark of Mission – Tend: To respond to human need through aroha and loving service.



MUSIC LESSONS

Our wonderful itinerant music teachers have room on their timetables for new sign-ups.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our girls, as we are very lucky to have such highly qualified music teachers.

SPACE AVAILABILITY IN: PIANO, DRUMS, BASS, BRASS GUITAR, CLARINET & VOICE (SINGING)



If you are interested please complete the Instrumental Lesson request form and return to the school office please click [here](#)



Footloose

STAGE ADAPTATION BY

DEAN PITCHFORD & WALTER BOBBIE

BASED ON THE ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY DEAN PITCHFORD

MUSIC BY

TOM SNOW

LYRICS BY

DEAN PITCHFORD

ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS & JIM STEINMAN

LICENSED EXCLUSIVELY BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALASIA). ALL PERFORMANCE MATERIALS SUPPLIED BY HAL LEONARD AUSTRALIA



— RATHKEALE COLLEGE & ST MATTHEW'S SENIOR COLLEGE —



TICKETS TO BE PURCHASED FROM TRYBOOKING \$20 ADULTS \$10 CONCESSION

DATES: JUNE 26TH, 27TH, 29TH, 30TH JULY 1ST



Stay **'Connected'** With our **School App!**

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

Key Dates:

Saturday 23 May - Dinner Dance
 Tuesday 26 May - CAA Numeracy Exam
 Thursday 28 May - Cross Country Regionals, Scots College Primary Fixture, Yr10 Trip to Holocaust Museum
 Friday 29 May - SMOGA Decade Reunion, Exeat Weekend
 Monday 1 June - Kings Birthday - School Closed
 Tuesday 2 June - Teacher Only Day - School Closed
 Friday 5 June - Fiafia Night, Yr 13 Food Trip

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



To all current and former
teachers and staff...

SMOGA WARMLY INVITE
YOU TO THIS YEARS

Decade Reunion

Please join us King's Birthday weekend to
reconnect with past students from
1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 & 2016

Friday

29/05/2026

6.30 PM Cocktail Evening
Rathkeale Dining Room

Saturday

30/05/2026

9:30 AM - Chapel
10AM Morning tea
both @ St Matthew's

RSVP bridg.andy@gmail.com

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD



SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2-4PM
SKATE PARK YOUTH HUB
MUSIC, FOOD, AND PRIZES!!
HOSTED BY MASTERTON
DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL

WAIRARAPA SINGERS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - MARK STAMPER

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

FEAT. REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING

13TH JUNE 2026

4PM

RATHKEALE
AUDITORIUM

MORE INFORMATION AT:
WAIRARAPASINGERS.WEEBLY.COM

ADULTS \$25

UNDER 18 FREE

COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR BADGE THEORY COURSE

START YOUR **UMPIRE** JOURNEY!



SUNDAY
24TH MAY



CLAREVILLE



9.30AM - 11.30AM
(2 HOURS)



UMPIRES ARE THE HEART OF THE GAME.
LEARN THE RULES. BUILD CONFIDENCE.
SUPPORT YOUR SPORT.



ALL WELCOME!
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY.

INTERESTED?



Email Hockey Wairarapa:
operations@hockeywairarapa.org.nz
Register by:

Contact Mr Clarke or Mrs Hannon if you would like to purchase tickets. Thank you