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# Welcome to St Matthew's Collegiate School

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## Building on success

Much has changed since St Matthew's School opened its doors over a hundred years ago in 1914.

Our modern learning spaces, wide range of subject choices and resources are first-class. 'Old Girls' dropping in are always pleased to see how well the character of the school has been kept as upgrades, such as earthquake strengthening, have been made.

Educating young women for tomorrow's world is our focus today. But St Matthew's wouldn't be the same without traditions. Strawberries and ice-cream on the lawn, Pancake Day races, special chapel services, ball room dancing with our brother school, Rathkeale College, parent and daughter sports days, leavers breakfasts and balls.

It's fair to say our boarding house interiors and meals have changed quite bit. It's hard to say what our Founders would have made of gluten-free, vegetarian options, duvets and wifi! Some things have definitely not changed. Living by Christian values, the importance of routines and respect for others are still values we live by. Our boarding staff have many years of experience caring for girls and supporting them as they grow into the amazing young people of whom we are so proud.

**Kiri Gill, Principal**





## What makes St Matthew's Collegiate so special?

Ask a St Matthew's girl about what she enjoys at school, and you will receive a surprising range of answers. For some it's the noise and anticipation of events; perhaps plaiting each other's hair before the craziness that is the annual House Music extravaganza, dressing-up for Athletics Day or Pancake Day races. An unexpected academic award can bring a wide smile of pride, especially for those that have worked hard and confronted a learning challenge.

Mostly it's the time spent chatting with friends about the days' events, helping find a 'lost' belonging, walking to lunch together. Sharing the small things, the big things, the commiserations, and celebrations – that's what students past and present tell us they enjoyed the most at 'St Matt's'.

Life-long friendships are made at our school. It's a safe and special place to learn about who you are, and what you value in yourself and others. Our boarding staff, counsellors, support staff and senior student 'big sisters' are there to share your successes – as well as to lift you up when you need a helping hand.

And yes.... there's a lot of time spent in the classroom too! We pride ourselves at St Matthew's Collegiate on academic excellence and regularly achieve a consistent 100% pass rate at all Levels of NCEA. Final exams may seem a long way off as you begin your life at secondary school—but our accomplished teaching team won't let you get too distracted with the 'fun stuff' every day. If you need extra help, or have special talents, they will support you to be the best that you can be. Our small class-sizes make it easy for both teachers and students to do their best work.

Reach for the stars at St Matthew's!



# Learning for life

St Matthew's Collegiate graduates are doctors, lawyers and businesswomen. They are farmers, artists, beauticians, electricians, ecologists, sports players, policewomen and administrators. Some are enjoying learning more about life as they find their own path. Each of our graduates have in common the ability to reach for the stars: to bring energy and passion to their pursuits, to be resilient when their goals are hard to reach, and to be compassionate with themselves and others as life's journey brings the unexpected.

To support you to enjoy learning as you gain national qualifications is our priority at St Matthews Collegiate. Some students will need extra help with maths and English, some will have special gifts to nurture. Together we will discover your talents and help you be the best you can be.

- As an intermediate student, Year 7 and 8, you will focus on learning core subjects of English, maths, science, social studies. Arts, sports, music, languages and religious education are part of the mix. There are lots of other activities that will keep you busy and the programme is certainly full: school camp, sports and cultural exchanges, junior school production and more.
- In middle school, Years 9-11, you will be able to explore some new subjects, perhaps fashion, business studies, design tech or drama. You may take on leadership roles, organise events and participate in community service activities.
- As a senior student you will be able to follow your academic passions. Our Year 12 and 13 students learn at both St Matthew's and our brother school, Rathkeale College. A shared Senior College, is a great learning environment, brings a wider perspective and additional subject choice.



## Growing great young women

As a school community we learn to celebrate each other's success and our own achievements. Our school values the time we are together as one family, at assemblies, special services and events. Each Thursday afternoon our whanau joins together for Hauora/Wellness – we take the time to focus on our school community and individual wellbeing.

The calendar is packed with cultural, sporting and community service events. Annual highlights are junior and senior productions, the house music competition the national Shakespeare festival, athletics day, the swimming gala, camps, matches, exchanges and tournaments for team and individual sporting codes.

Lots of girls enjoy the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, many try new activities like clay bird shooting or dance. You can join choirs and bands or take private music lessons. But informal games and just 'hanging-out' are just as important as organised activities and there is room in the schedule for hobbies, activities, reading, and yes, some phone-time!

The more you put into life at St Matthew's the more you will get out. There's never a dull moment!



St Matthew's Prizegiving 2025  
Academic Awards



Francesca Wells  
DUX



# Live, learn and play at St Matthew's Collegiate

Boarding adds an extra-dimension to your school life, you will have a stronger connection to your studies, fellow students and staff. You might thrive from day one and get involved in every activity. Or you might take your time to learn how things work, make friends and get used to the routine. We are not all the same... and that's a good thing!

Experienced staff and older students will help you settle in. If you have been used to life on a farm or in a city you will find having lots of friends nearby and so many things to do pretty exciting – possibly a bit noisy at first! Boarding House staff are always keen to have some fun (when homework has been done) and celebrate everything they can from the beginning of term to the end.

After school, boarding students have afternoon tea, sometimes use the pool, gym, all weather courts and playing fields. There's time

for homework, spending time on art or craft projects, to have dinner and to get organised for the next day ahead.

St Matthew's Collegiate School offers boarding for girls in Years 7 to 13. Junior boarders live in Main House, and the seniors have their own fully supervised building, Hampton House. Boarding can help manage busy family life and enable students to take full advantage of sports and activities on and off campus.

The warm and welcoming environment in both boarding houses will support you to achieve your very best in every aspect of life.





## Our special character

A St Matthew's education is based around the Christian values of the Anglican Church. These values are at the heart of everything we do. We are encouraged to look in at ourselves, out to our community, and up to God.

Students and staff are part of a family joining together in all school activities: academic, sporting, cultural and spiritual. We share a large part of our day as a wider community, we eat together, play and pray together. We value:

- compassion
- integrity
- respect
- inclusiveness
- commitment.

## The Trinity family

St Matthew's Collegiate is part of a Wairarapa family of Anglican schools, managed by a Trust Board. The Trinity system: Hadlow Pre-School, Hadlow Preparatory, Rathkeale and St Matthew's Collegiate schools, educates and cares for all students from pre-school to Year 13. Although Anglican, Trinity Schools welcome students from all cultures, religions and faiths who undertake to uphold the special character.

**Empowering and  
guiding learners to be  
the best they can be**



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