



Principal's Message

TERM THREE, WEEK SEVEN

Kia Ora Koutou

The Sports

I have had the privilege of attending Tournament Week sport this week in Hawke's Bay (1st XI Football) and Wellington (Senior A Netball). While a trip to Whangārei to support our 1st XI Hockey team was certainly tempting, the distance made it a little less practical!

For all our travelling teams, the opportunity to compete against schools from across the country and experience the travel that often accompanies sport at this level is invaluable.

This week brought many firsts for our students and, for some, lasting memories of their final Tournament Week. While some might say success in sport is measured by winning, my experience of this year's winter tournaments has been seeing the growth of a culture that values learning from missed goals, dropped balls, and tough losses, while also celebrating effort, perseverance, and one another's achievements.

These opportunities are only possible because people, most often parents, volunteer as coaches and managers. They give up a week's work to support our students, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment. We are equally thankful to the staff who accompany teams and give their time so generously. Together, they make these experiences possible.

The Arts

Sport has been a focus this week, so let me now drift down the performing arts avenue.

Next Wednesday, Mrs Ferguson will host our Arts Evening at 6.00pm. We will be treated to snippets of fashion, song, music and art, and I strongly encourage you to attend.

Looking at a map this week, I wondered which was the tougher challenge: travelling hundreds of kilometres to Tournament Week venues or guiding an entire House towards a polished musical performance. Having watched both, I suspect our House leaders would argue that teaching 100 students the same song is every bit as demanding as a trip to Whangārei. Fortunately, both experiences build resilience, teamwork and plenty of stories worth telling.

House Music has been a major focus this term as students prepare for House Song, House Hymn and House Band. It has required a few GPS moments along the way: **Gathering voices, Practising relentlessly, and Sometimes recalculating!**

Astra Choir has begun exploring new harmonies, and Mr Sharp has established a Years 7 and 8 choir. It is wonderful to see these opportunities continuing to grow and for more students to discover the joy, confidence and connection that music can bring.

Looking ahead, Term 4 will see our Years 7 and 8 production take centre stage. If House Music has taught us anything, it is that our students are more than ready for the spotlight.

The Present

A reminder to all students that we have our anti-bullying procedure, **STAND**. It is there to be used so that everyone feels safe at school. No one has the right to treat you badly, so please use the process if you need support.

The Future

You will hardly have missed the advertising campaign for St Matthew's. Behind the scenes, we are continuing to develop the framework for a St Matthew's education that has been shaped by the futures consultation many of you contributed to. We are clear about our way forward:

St Matthew's is a Place to Belong, a Place to Grow, and a Place to Shine. (And yes, we do rather love our star symbol.)

As I finalise what is currently called The Astra Years, we are mapping what students can expect and experience during each year of their journey with us. This includes learning highlights, special character experiences, leadership and service opportunities, sporting involvement, cultural participation and boarding experiences.

The framework begins with a student's arrival in Year 7, where St Matthew's becomes a place to belong, and culminates in Year 13, where she leaves equipped with all she has gathered along the way and ready to shine.

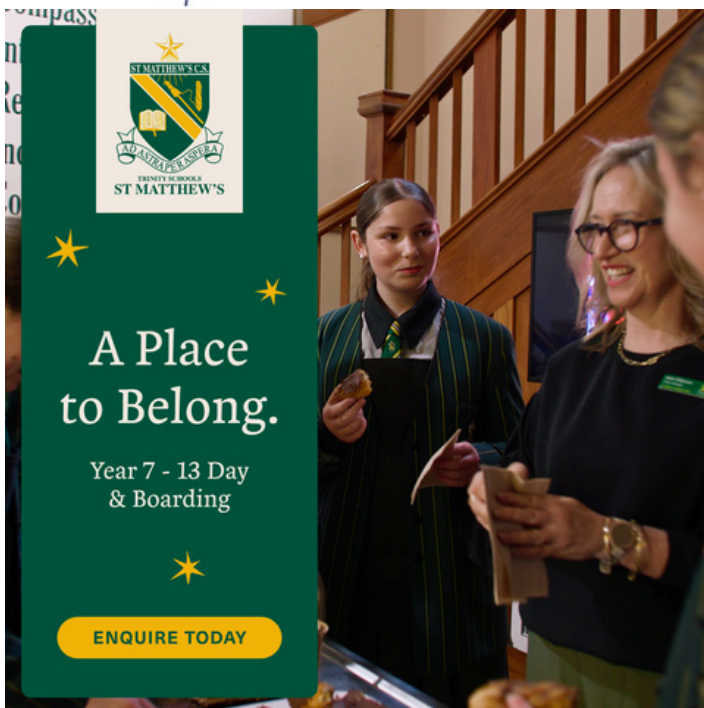
This work is not about changing who we are. It is about making visible the richness of a St Matthew's education and ensuring that every student and family can clearly see the opportunities, experiences, relationships and growth that shape the journey from Year 7 to Year 13.

I am genuinely excited about this work. It reinforces what makes St Matthew's special and provides a clear picture for current and prospective families of what it means to learn, grow and flourish as part of our community.

The Weekend

Be safe and be your best selves.
Ngā mihi

Phil



A Place to Belong.
Year 7 - 13 Day & Boarding
ENQUIRE TODAY



A Place to Grow.
Year 7 - 13 Day and Boarding
ENQUIRE TODAY



A Place to Shine.
Year 7 - 13 Day & Boarding
ENQUIRE TODAY



Boarding



Pictured (L-R): Zandy Read, Michelle Kooiman, Rosie Karaitiana, Kiera McKenzie, Heidi Didsbury, and Olivia Orsborn.

Cancer Society Collection Day

On Friday 28 August, our boarders proudly supported the Cancer Society Collection Day, with groups of students volunteering throughout the day. This initiative reflects St Matthew's commitment to giving back to the community and supporting worthy causes.



Ms Botterill (part-time Matron) and Olive (Tutor) recently introduced an activity for our Year 7 and 8 boarders that encouraged them to reflect on the strengths they have developed through their home life, boarding experience, and school involvement.

Using a collection of Strength Cards spread across the table, the girls were invited to identify three to five strengths they believed they possessed and share examples of how they demonstrated them in everyday life.

The aim of the activity was to foster self-reflection and help the girls become more comfortable recognising and celebrating their positive qualities. It was wonderful to see the girls not only identifying their own strengths, but also acknowledging the strengths they saw in one another and sharing examples of how these were displayed.

Some girls also chose to explore strengths they would like to develop further. Together, we discussed ways they could work towards these goals and the support they might need along the way.

Each girl recorded her strengths on a card, with the hope that she would display it in her room as a reminder of her unique qualities and personal growth.

Overall, the girls embraced the activity enthusiastically and engaged wholeheartedly, making it a positive and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

Sport Schedule

Sport Schedule

Week 8 - Term 3
Monday September 7th - Sunday September 13th

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day							
During Day	Junior Dance Troupe 1.10-1.55pm @ Lazarus						
After School	Badminton @ SMS Gym 3.30-4.30pm	Rifle Shooting @ Masterton Miniature rifle club Van depart 6.20, Pick up 8.30	Hockey Primary 11s Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Turf	Squash @ Red Star Squash Courts 3.30-4.45pm Van departs 3.15pm, pick up 4.50pm	Primary Hockey Games @ Clareville Turf SMS vs TBC,		
			Senior Dance Troupe 3.30-4.15pm @ Lazarus				

St Matthew's Collegiate Sport Results

Week 6 Term 3

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

	Opponent	Score
Hockey		
Primary Sticks	MIS Combined	2-0 loss
Football		
Steel	WaiCol Development	5-1 loss
Strikers	Solway College 2nds	4-2 win
1st XI	Wairarapa College 1st XI	0-0
Wright Milne Cup retained		
1st XI	Chanel College	3-1 win
Netball		
Primary Kowhai	Hadlow Sting	19-17 loss
Primary Kiwikiwi	Lakeview Opals	15-9 loss
Primary Kakariki	CPN JK&CO Maroon	11-8 loss

Rifle shooting		
Elsie Dry	75.1	
Ruby Ferguson	79	
Audrey Hall	94.1	94.2
Michelle Kooiman	63.1	
Eva MacManus	70	
Amy Kuipers	74	
Tenley Richardson	71	
Maya Rosenbach	81.1	
Katya Shi	86.2	83.1
Katherine Squires	85.1	
Madi Duckett	85	
Audrey also competed at a club college shoot on Saturday 29th August, as an individual placed 6th with score of 185.3		

Football – 16th Place at the Maurice Hulme Tournament

Our First XI Football team competed with determination and resilience at the Maurice Hulme Tournament, finishing in 16th place overall.

The team opened the tournament strongly with a 2-1 win over Samuel Marsden Collegiate and a 1-1 draw with Matamata College. Despite facing some tough opposition, including Tauranga College and Iona College, the girls continued to work hard and showed excellent commitment throughout the week.

A highlight came on Day Three with an impressive 3-0 victory over Whanganui Collegiate. The team then played two closely contested matches against St Oran's College and Karamu College, narrowly going down in both encounters.

Tournament Results:

- Samuel Marsden Collegiate: Win 2-1
- Matamata College: Draw 1-1
- Tauranga College: Loss 0-6
- Iona College: Draw 0-0
- Whanganui Collegiate: Win 3-0
- St Oran's College: Loss 0-1
- Karamu College: Loss 1-2
- Wairarapa College: Loss 0-2



Netball Tournament Recap

Our Senior A Netball team recently competed at the Lower North Island Secondary Schools (LINSS) Tournament, held in Wellington, finishing an impressive 27th overall in Grade A.

After a challenging start against Feilding High School and Queen Margaret College, the girls bounced back with a thrilling 31-30 victory over Paraparaumu College on Day Two. Throughout the tournament, the team continued to grow in confidence, securing strong wins against King's College Senior A (39-16), Dannevirke High School (41-29), and Havelock North High School (38-29).

The final day saw the team narrowly edged out by Woodford House in a closely contested match before finishing the tournament with a convincing win over Havelock North High School.

Tournament Results

- Feilding High School defeated SMC 43-25
- Queen Margaret College defeated SMC 49-26
- SMC defeated Paraparaumu College 31-30
- Upper Hutt Senior A defeated SMC 45-25
- Whanganui Collegiate defeated SMC 44-37
- New Plymouth Girls' High School defeated SMC 50-19
- SMC defeated King's College Senior A 39-16
- SMC defeated Dannevirke High School 41-29
- Woodford House defeated SMC 35-33
- SMC defeated Havelock North High School 38-29



Hockey Tournament - 2026 Federation Cup & Marie Fry Trophy | Whangārei

Our First XI Hockey team has shown great determination and resilience throughout the 2026 Federation Cup & Marie Fry Trophy in Whangārei, with two thrilling penalty shootout victories keeping their campaign alive.

Tournament Results

- St Matthew's Collegiate 1 – St Andrew's College 3
- St Matthew's Collegiate 2 – St Paul's Collegiate 3
- St Matthew's Collegiate 0 – Rangitoto College 1
- St Matthew's Collegiate 2 – St Hilda's Collegiate 1 (won on penalties)
- St Matthew's Collegiate 3 – King's College 2 (won on penalties)
- St Matthew's Collegiate 1 vs New Plymouth Girls' High School 5

Finals Day 5th September

Marie Fry Trophy Bronze Match – 9.30am

We wish the team all the best for their final match



Congratulations to all players, coaches, management, staff, and supporters on a fantastic week of competition. Thank you for the dedication, teamwork, and school spirit you brought throughout the tournament.

Around School

Yr 10 Maths

How far can you jump?
That was the big question for our Year 10 Maths classes this week! Students measured their standing jumps before turning their results into graphs for their Statistics unit.

There were some impressive leaps, plenty of laughs, and lots of data to analyse along the way.



Yr 8 Food Technology



The Year 8 class making smoothies with ingredients with a rainbow of colours and adding new foods they have never had in a smoothie before like spinach, carrots and chia seeds

Yr 13 Food Technology

The year 13 Food class with their layer mini chocolate dot cakes



Mural unveiling

Maddison, Emma, Rosalie and Piper attended the unveiling of their SMCS mural on the wall of the construction site of the Masterton District Library on Tuesday.

The girls were pleased to finally see the mural displayed and the chance to view the other murals from local schools.

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

Faith on the Field – Te Whakapono i te Papa Hākinakina

This week many of our rangatahi have been competing in tournaments around NZ as part of Tournament Week. Sport gives us much more than the opportunity to compete. The papa hākinakina – the sports field – is also a place where our wairua and tangata are revealed. It is where we have opportunities to practise manaakitanga (care and respect), whanaungatanga (relationships and belonging), humility, courage, perseverance and aroha.

As Christians, our values are not something we leave behind when we walk onto the field. Our faith shapes how we play, how we respond when things don't go our way, and how we treat those around us.



Paul reminds us:

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

“Ahakoa he aha ta koutou mahi, mahia katoatia hei whakakororia i te Atua.”

— 1 Corinthians 10:31

Winning is exciting, but Christian character is about much more than the scoreboard. He aha tō tātou tohu? What is our measure of success? Perhaps it is found in the way we encourage a teammate who is struggling, congratulate an opponent, play fairly when nobody is watching, and respond with grace when we lose.

The Bible also encourages us to remember that we are part of something bigger than ourselves:

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

— Philippians 2:3

On the papa tākaro (playing field), we can compete wholeheartedly while still showing respect. We can strive for excellence without putting others down. We can celebrate success with ngākau māhaki (humility) and handle disappointment with manawanui (perseverance).

So, let us remember: our Christian character travels with us. Kia tākaro tika, kia tākaro ngātahi, kia manaaki tētahi i tētahi – play fairly, play together, and look after one another.

He toa mō te katoa – let us be champions of character, not simply champions of the scoreboard.

Daffodil Day Fundraising

A huge thank you to our St Matthew's and Senior College community for supporting our Cancer Society fundraiser.

Together, we raised an incredible \$3125.60

We are so grateful to everyone who donated, took part, and helped make this fundraising effort a success.





Yr10 PE



Year 10's third trimester is in full swing!

Our cheerleading group recently treated the athletics class to an impromptu performance, showcasing the skills and routines they have been working hard to learn this term. ✨

A huge thank you to Mark and Andrea from Wairarapa Track and Field, along with Mr Beach and Mrs Fergusson, for their awesome mahi

Senior College Bartending Course



Theory Day on day one- including legal responsibility, strategies, roll play and ID, to understand the penalties of irresponsible alcohol service, and how to deal with "intoxicated customers using a simulated licences premises.

SMOGA Grant Now Open!

Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship

Applications are now open for the Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship, available to Year 13 students intending to study Commerce at tertiary level. This prestigious scholarship offers \$5,000 in funding over two years, as well as mentorship from Gretchen Williamson – a leading financial adviser and St Matthew's Old Girl.

Gretchen is passionate about supporting young women into careers in finance and investment. This scholarship is part of her ten-year commitment to helping close the wealth gap for women through education and opportunity.

Applications close on 23 October 2026, with the recipient announced at Prizegiving in December. For more information and to apply, <https://forms.gle/owWycFXJZdhqS74A>

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

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

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



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/)

Key Dates:

Wednesday 9 September - L2/3 Drama Performance
Friday 11 September - Kapa Haka trip to Pukaha
Sunday 13 September - Yr12 Ski Trip
Monday 14 September - Māori Language Week,
Numeracy CAA Exam
Tuesday 15 September - Literacy Reading & Writing Exam
2nd opportunity
Wednesday 16 September - Yr10 Social Studies Trip,
Yr11 Study Skills, Wairarapa Smallbore Champs, WOW
Thursday 17 September - Sport, Cultural, Service Photos

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



ARTS EVENING



CULTURE



FASHION



MUSIC



ART



DANCE

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 6PM

ST MATTS HALL

Koha entry - all proceeds to Gumboot Friday



SCHOOL BOARD
ELECTIONS

Ko tō reo. Ko tō kura.

Your voice. Your school.

Voting is OPEN, use your voice and vote NOW!



Rathkeale College Christmas Fête Raffle 2026

- 1st Prize One year UNLIMITED MOVIE PASS FOR TWO and a \$50 meal voucher per month at The Screening Room Cinema & Eatery, Masterton. Value Incredible! Est. value \$1,500. Donated by Eve Buchanan.
- 2nd Prize Daily Life - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$300 Vetcare Voucher, \$300 Petrol Voucher and \$100 New World Voucher. Value \$1050. Donated by Devotus, Vetcare Masterton, Annika Joll and New World Masterton.
- 3rd Prize Martinborough Treats - a one-night stay at The Martinborough Hotel and a \$350 Devotus Vineyard Experience Voucher. Value \$700. Donated by Devotus, and The Martinborough Hotel.
- 4th Prize Wairarapa Treats - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$50 Wingate Lane Voucher, \$50 Clareville Bakery Voucher. Value \$450. Donated by Devotus, Wingate Lane and The Clareville Bakery.
- 5th Prize A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Wraps. Donated by Breadcraft.
- 6th Prize Home Supplies - \$200 Bunnings Voucher, \$100 New World Voucher and a trailer of firewood delivered to your door. Donated by Island Bay Builders, New World Masterton and McCarthy Transport.
- 7th Prize A Day's Surfing Tuition for up to 6 people at Castlepoint. Donated by David Woodcock.
- 8th Prize One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 9th Prize One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 10th Prize A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Bagels. Donated by Breadcraft.

All proceeds go towards facilities for students at Rathkeale College.
Entries close 3.00pm on 01/11/2026. This raffle will be drawn under supervision on 01/11/2026 at Rathkeale College.
Winners will be notified and published. Prizes are not transferable and cannot be taken in cash.
Organiser: Sarah Summers, The Friends of Rathkeale College Incorporated, 217 Willow Park Drive, Masterton 5875.
Tel 06 370 0175. Limited to 3000 tickets numbered from 1000 to 6000.

Super prizes to be won!

\$20 for 5 tickets or \$5 a ticket.

Contact Rathkeale College to purchase.

06 370 0175 or office@rathkeale.school.nz



\$5 per Ticket
Book of 5 for \$20



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