



Principal's Message

TERM THREE, WEEK EIGHT

Kia ora koutou

The mornings are lighter and I love that. Getting to school in the dark during winter can be a bit of a downer, but as we move into spring, the mood seems to lift along with the daylight.

We have now received the outcome of the Trinity Futures process. As I shared in the recent letter to families, there are no immediate changes for your daughter or her experience at St Matthew's.

While long-term strategic decisions naturally create questions, what remains unchanged is the day-to-day reality of life at St Matthew's. Learning continues. Sport continues. Boarding continues. Chapel continues. Most importantly, our girls continue to be known, challenged, supported, and cared for.

Throughout this process, I have been reminded again and again of what makes St Matthew's special. It is not simply our buildings or structures. It is our people, our values, our special character, and the opportunities we create for girls to learn, grow, and flourish.

A Place to Explore

One positive outcome of this period of consultation has been our own work on the future of St Matthew's. We have been looking closely at what it means to be a school that is truly **a place to belong, a place to grow, and a place to shine.**

As shared in the last newsletter, we have been exploring what this looks like at each year level across learning, special character, leadership and service, sport, culture, and boarding. We are calling this work the **Astra Years**, and it maps the St Matthew's journey from Years 7 to 13.

At St Matthew's our GPS isn't a Global Positioning System. It's a **Girls' Potential Strategy**. It helps ensure every decision we make points towards growth, purpose, and opportunities to shine. We are clear about the destination and increasingly clear about the important milestones along the way. Staff have already been taken through the itinerary, and our next opportunity to share this work is with the Board. We look forward to sharing more with our community soon.

A Place that cares

We've had students and staff away with illness recently, whether that's their own health, caring for children, or supporting loved ones. I haven't been immune either, with another unexpected trip north this week.

My GPS, and this time I really do mean the Global Positioning System, pointed me towards Waikato Hospital on Monday. I'm beginning to think we may have a timeshare arrangement there as we seem to be becoming regular visitors.

The reason for the journey is never ideal, but the care has been excellent. It has also been heartening to see the way staff work to meet cultural needs, including marae-style shared rooms that support whānau connection and care.

Experiences like these are a reminder that wellbeing matters. Schools are busy places, and when illness arrives it often affects entire families, not just individuals. As we head into spring, please continue to look after yourselves and one another. Sometimes the most important thing we can do is slow down, rest, and allow ourselves time to recover.

A Place of singing, dancing, art, music, and fashion

I want to acknowledge the light in the week that was the Arts Evening. I felt like I was there through the vivid descriptions of what happened on the stage. So many souls came together to create this showcase of talent in our wee school.

Particular thanks to Mrs Fergusson who has set the bar for the incoming dance teacher to continue this cultural journey.

A Place where change happens

As I close, I will continue the destination metaphor by announcing the appointment of Mrs Susan Marshall as our TIC Music and Drama from next year. Currently on maternity leave from Palmerston North Boys' High School, Susan is looking forward to relocating to the Wairarapa and joining the St Matthew's community. We are excited to welcome her and look forward to the energy, expertise, and opportunities she will bring to our performing arts programmes.

A small confession: AI helped me tidy up some of my wording this week. The stories, opinions, questionable humour and hospital adventures are still entirely mine.

As always have a safe weekend and be your best selves.

Ngā mihi

Phil



HOUSE MUSIC EVENT

When: Thursday 24th

September 2026

Time: starts 6pm

Venue: Wairarapa

College Hall

Kohā Entry

**LIVE
MUSIC**

PROGRAMME

Opening Item - Kapa Haka

House One - Batten

Year 11 Choir

House Two - Cooper

Bonnie Shen

House Three - Sheppard

Year 13 Choir

House Four - Wake

Jazz Band (two items)

Judge Decision

Boarding

Tukutuku Panel Project

The Tukutuku panel project this term was about creating a lasting symbol of boarding out of appreciation and respect for our boarding whānau.

The pātiki design represents the flounder, a symbol of hospitality, connection and abundance (typically of food). I believe boarding is the place it is because of these values, so it was great to have some junior girls from Main House help in weaving the piece which was finished and hung this week!

Ruby Ferguson



TE WIKILO
TE REO MĀORI



A Place to Belong | He wāhi e noho ai
A Place to Grow | He wāhi e tupu ai
A Place to Shine | He wāhi e whiti ai

**AKE AKE AKE
OUR LANGUAGE
KIA KAHA TE REO MĀORI**

office@stmatts.school.nz | www.stmatts.school.nz





What's on the menu this week?



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







Arts Evening



The St Matthews Arts Evening was a wonderful celebration of creativity, talent, and individuality. Every student who took to the stage shone in their own unique way, through the energy of dance, the power of music, the imagination of drama, the creativity of visual art, the richness of culture, and the confidence and individuality expressed through fashion.

Thank you for your wonderful support and generous koha. We are grateful that together we were able to support Gumboot Friday, helping to provide free counselling for young people in NZ.



Sport Schedule

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

Week 9 - Term 3 Monday September 14th - Sunday September 20th							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day			Rifleshooting WAISS Sport Champs depart Main House 9a, return 1pm				
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 31s Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Turf Senior Dance Troupe 3.30-4.15pm @ Lazarus	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		

Around School

Year 10 Food Technology

Year 10 Food Technology class with their completed Honey Greek Yogurt Chia Puddings!



Year 10 Social Studies

On Thursday Celia Jaspers from Scorpio Productions visited Year 10 Social Studies to share her expertise on documentary making.

Celia's work includes the Country Calendar series. Celia gave the girls some tips on script writing and production techniques.

The girls will be out and about next week filming for their documentary on Wairarapa Rivers and Lakes.



St Matthew's Collegiate School Board Elections Student Election Results Declaration



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE VOTES

Zena Cole	66
Emily-Jane Edwards	24
Invalid Votes	0

I hereby declare the following duly elected:
Zena Cole



Haley Feringa-Howley
Haley Feringa-Howley

Returning Officer - St Matthew's Collegiate

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

In the early Christian church, believers faced a question that might seem unusual to us today: What should Christians do if food had previously been offered to idols? This week in Junior Chapel we examined this teaching and tried to apply it to our current lives.

In the ancient world, meat could be part of religious ceremonies connected with pagan (non-Christian) worship, and this created a difficult question for followers of Jesus.

Paul addresses this in 1 Corinthians 8, reminding Christians that while food itself does not determine our relationship with God, the way our choices affect others matters deeply. Christian freedom is never simply about “What am I allowed to do?” but also “How will my actions affect my neighbour?” In the scripture, Paul point out, “Food does not bring us near to God; ehara hoki te kai i te mea e whakatata ai tātou ki te Atua.”

— 1 Corinthians 8:8

He goes on to remind the Corinthians that aroha must guide their freedom: “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up; ko te mātauranga e whakakake ana, ko te aroha ia e hanga ana.”

— 1 Corinthians 8:1

The heart of Paul's teaching is therefore not really about meat—it is about manaakitanga, aroha and consideration for others. We may have freedom to make certain choices, but Christian maturity means thinking about how those choices might influence or affect someone else.

As a kura Karaitiana, this gives us a valuable principle for everyday life:

“Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour.”

“Kaua tetahi e rapu i tana ake pai, engari i te pai mo tona hoa.”

— 1 Corinthians 10:24

May our kōwhiringa (choices), kupu (words) and actions be shaped by te aroha o te Atua – the love of God – and may we always seek the pai mō ētahi atu – the good of others.

He aroha te mea nui – love is what matters most.



Friends of St Matthew's Treasurer

The Friends of St Matthew's is a fundraising committee that supports our school community and helps provide valuable resources and opportunities for our students.

We're looking for a new Treasurer to join our friendly team.

You don't need to be an accountant — basic bookkeeping skills, good organisation and a willingness to help are all that's required.

The role involves:

- Keeping track of money coming in and going out
- Paying bills and banking funds
- Keeping simple financial records
- Providing a brief update at meetings
- Helping prepare the annual accounts

We meet approximately twice each term, and there will be support to help you get started.

Interested or want to know more?

Please contact Rachel Garrity at
rachel.garrity@gmail.com or 021 122 2296.

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:

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
Kapa Haka Trip

Wenesday 23 September - Patronal Service Assembly

Thursday 24 September - House Music Event

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



ONE DAY WITH

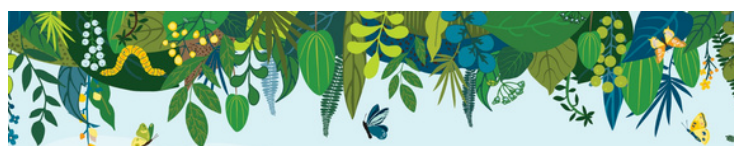
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NOTE**
New Zealand DANCE

WORKSHOP

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COMPANY REPERTOIRE
IMPROVISATION PRACTICE
CHOREOGRAPHIC PRACTICE

A FULL DAY DANCE WORKSHOP
TAILORED FOR YOUTH AND
YOUNG DANCERS AGED 13-18

Weds 30th September
Footnote Dance Studios | Cuba St
Register at www.footnote.org.nz



Don't miss a thing this spring!

One app. All our school news

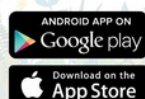


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Rathkeale College Christmas Fête Raffle 2026

- 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 07/11/2026. This raffle will be drawn under supervision on 08/11/2026 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 5000 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



SPORT AND MOVEMENT

SEPT 28 - OCT 2

REGISTRATION:

\$30 PER DAY **\$50 PER DAY FOR 2 KIDS**

GIVE YOUR CHILD AN ACTIVE & FUN HOLIDAY PROGRAMME!

ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ FOOTBALL
- ✓ BASKETBALL
- ✓ PARKOUR & GYMNASIAC
- ✓ FLOORBALL
- ✓ + MORE!!

FOR AGES 5-14

EVERY DAY 9AM - 12PM

YMCA
371 QUEEN STREET, MASTERTON

REGISTER NOW

ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL:
HELEN@KIAHAKINAKINA.CO.NZ



PIFA Holiday Programme in October.

Please see details below:

- 👉 7-15yo
- 👉 All abilities
- 👉 Mon 5 - Weds 7 Oct
- 👉 9am-12pm
- 👉 In association with Rathkeale College, Masterton
- 👉 Register [HERE](#)

Spaces are limited so please book in ASAP to secure your spot!

If you have any challenges with the sign up form, please email paulifillfootballacademy@gmail.com

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REGISTRATIONS AT:
<https://wairarapa.actingantics.com>
CONTACT: deborah@actingantics.com

COBBLESTONES
WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE

10am - 3pm
\$5 per adult.
Children free

SPRING FAIR

Farm Animals - Entertainment
Food and Games

Saturday 3rd October
169 Main St, Greytown

FRIGHT NIGHT

AT THE
MUSEUM

8.00PM SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

TICKETS \$20.00 AT [eventfinda](https://www.eventfinda.co.nz) R12+

COBBLESTONES
WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE
169 Main St, Greytown 5712

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