

SHC Heartbeat

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart

Issue 10
July 2025



From the Principal

Kia ora koutou katoa
Talofa lava
Fakaalofa lahi atu
Kia orana
Mālō e lelei

Namaste
Welkom
Herzlich Willkommen
Witamy
Nǐ hǎo Mālō ni

Parent School Board Election

Nominations are open,
closing Wed 6 August

Check your email for
details from Election Pilot

Nau mai, haere mai, e te whānau,

This Sunday's Gospel reading, Luke 10:38-42, is one of my favourites. In it, Jesus visits the home of Martha and Mary. While Martha is busy with all the preparations, Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet and listens. Frustrated, Martha asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. But Jesus gently replies:

*"Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed.
Mary has chosen what is better."*

This passage always makes me pause and reflect: What is it that distracts me? Am I focusing on what truly matters?

This reading beautifully echoes the Mission Sisters' core value of contemplation, taking time to reflect so that our actions are meaningful and aligned with our deeper purpose. Mary's choice to be present and attentive reminds us that contemplation is not passive, but a powerful act of prioritising what truly matters. In a world where so many of us, particularly our young people, are plagued with anxiety, it is critical as Catholics to remember the grounding power of contemplation and prayer. These practices connect us with God and allow the Spirit to be present in our lives. Encouraging our students to pray, to be still, to disconnect from technology, to journal, or to spend time in nature are some of the most powerful ways to cultivate presence, peace, and spiritual clarity. It is through these moments of quiet reflection that we find direction, strength, and a deeper sense of purpose in our busy lives.

Last week's Kōrero ā Whānau was a wonderful opportunity to connect. It was heartening to see so many of you take the time to meet with staff and discuss how your daughters are progressing. I especially appreciated those who shared feedback on our strengths and areas for growth. Thank you for your honesty and partnership.

Last week the CAA results were released, and our students have performed well above the national average. To those who may feel disappointed, please know we are incredibly proud. A closer look at the individual results shows that nearly every student has made significant progress. If your daughter hasn't yet shared her results analysis with you, we encourage you to have that conversation and reach out to her Maths or English teacher if you have any questions.

As we move into the third term, let's not become like Martha, distracted by the busyness of life. Instead, let's focus on what truly matters: achieving our goals, nurturing our relationships with ourselves, others, and with God. Making sure we are getting enough sleep and meeting our deadlines.

Ngā mihi nui

Katrina Kerr-Bell, Principal

Teacher vs Student Debate Brings the Heat to the PAC

On the last Thursday of Term 2, Sacred Heart hosted its first Teacher vs Student Debate in the Performing Arts Centre. The moot, "Should National ban social media for under-16s?", saw our senior student team **Jessica Greaney, Vienna Serpa, and Dishita Shankar**, arguing against the ban, while teachers **Simon Blandford, Tanya Conradie, and Jackson Oliver** argued in favour. Both teams presented very strong arguments. In a close decision, our student team emerged victorious. A big thank you to our adjudicator, Katie Jordan, for her time and expertise.

We look forward to the next debate.

Sophie Mayo, Head of Academic



Attendance

We are now sending out weekly, your student's attendance. You will be able to see what classes they are missing. If you are concerned about attendance, if you need help or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate in making contact. First point of contact is usually their Ako Teacher or Dean. Helpful feedback we received was it is sometimes hard to know who to contact. A contact list is on page 5 of this newsletter.

Term 2 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

Regular Attendance

51%

Compared to 45% in Term 2, 2024

Irregular Absence 28%
Compared to 29% in Term 2, 2024

Moderate Absence 11%
Compared to 14% in Term 2, 2024

Chronic Absence 9%
Compared to 11% in Term 2, 2024

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

- (M) Illness / Medical Absence 63%
- (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 14%
- (J) Explained and Approved 11%
- (G) Holiday 5%
- (T) Unexplained / Trivial 4%

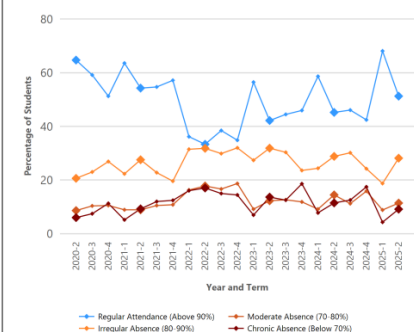
Regular attendance is vital for your student's learning, wellbeing, and future success. According to the Ministry of Education data only 51% of our students are considered "regular attenders" meaning they are at school at least 90% of the time. While it is encouraging that 77% attend 80% or more, we know we can do better.

Every day at school counts. If you need support with your student's attendance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to help.

Trends

Because of seasonal changes from term to term it's best to compare the same term over time. Compare Term 2 to Term 2.

How have your student attendance categories changed over time?



Year Term	Regular	Irregular	Moderate	Chronic
2020-2	65%	21%	9%	6%
2020-3	59%	23%	10%	7%
2020-4	51%	27%	11%	11%
2021-1	64%	22%	9%	5%
2021-2	54%	28%	9%	9%
2021-3	55%	23%	11%	12%
2021-4	57%	20%	11%	12%
2022-1	36%	31%	16%	16%
2022-2	33%	32%	18%	17%
2022-3	38%	30%	17%	15%
2022-4	35%	32%	19%	14%
2023-1	56%	27%	9%	7%
2023-2	42%	32%	12%	14%
2023-3	44%	30%	13%	13%
2023-4	46%	24%	12%	19%
2024-1	59%	24%	9%	8%
2024-2	45%	29%	14%	11%
2024-3	46%	30%	11%	13%
2024-4	42%	24%	16%	17%
2025-1	68%	19%	9%	4%
2025-2	51%	28%	11%	9%

School Leavers' Toolkit Updates

Two new topics are being added to the school leavers' toolkit to help your senior students prepare for life after school:

Get your driver licence: as a stand-alone topic containing information and resources, the benefits and key road safety tips.

Consumer rights: under the 'money and tax' topic, with examples of your rights when something goes wrong when spending your money.

Find them at [Practical skills for life – New Zealand Government](https://www.practicalskills.govt.nz/)



Ss Peter and Paul 175th Jubilee

Ss Peter and Paul Church celebrated its 175th Jubilee on the weekend of 28-29 June. SHC students were involved in the celebrations, and the community has expressed its gratitude for all they did. As a school we also planted a tree in the church grounds to commemorate this occasion and celebrate our connection with the church. A big thank you to teacher Thom King, who grew the tree from a seedling found on the College grounds.

Our connection with the Church is an important part of who we are as a Catholic School. We are grateful for all the Church does for us and the way they support our students and staff.



Paula Davies, DRS

What's On

Check the school calendar at www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz

Week 3A Term 3

Mana Mātauranga

Vanuatu Bislama Language Week

- 28 Jul Victoria University Visit – Scholarships (lunchtime) P4 Just Dance (lunchtime) Gym
- 29 Jul **At 12.55pm Year 13s Leave to Work from Home Course Fair Yr 9-12 (1.45-2.45pm) SHC Course Fair Whānau & Students (2.45-4.30pm) SHC**
- 30 Jul Non-Uniform Day – St Vincent de Paul Fundraiser Yr 9/10 NZ Spelling Bee Test (10.00-11.00am) M1 Māori Achieve (lunchtime) Atawhai Homework Club (3.30-4.30pm) Library Te Huatai Katorika Rehearsal (5.00-7.00pm) PAC
- 31 Jul Bowls Have a Go (lunchtime) Gym Big Sister (3.30-4.30pm) Library
- 1 Aug Kapa Haka Rehearsals (lunchtime) PAC
- 2-4 Aug Te Huatai Katorika Noho Marae (Ōrongomai Marae)
- 3 Aug Hip Hop Unit Regional Competition (Aotea College)

Looking Ahead: Week 4B

Cook Islands Language Week

- 4 Aug Kapa Haka Regionals (10.30am-4.00pm) Brewtown
- 5 Aug Barbier Feast Day
- 6 Aug Nomination of Board Parent Reps closes at 12 noon School Board Meeting (7.00-8.00pm) Library
- 7 Aug CSW Netball Senior Tournament (Wellington)
- 9 Aug Year 13 School Ball

School Board Parent Rep Election

Do you have a passion for education and our community?

Are you interested, or do you know someone who would be one of five fantastic parent representatives on our School Board?

Nominations are now open

Election Pilot will have emailed you with all the details on how to nominate.

This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of our school.

Let's make a difference together!

Nominations close on 6 August at 12 noon.

Unsure and have questions?

Check out the links on our website <https://www.sacredheartcollege.school.nz/our-school/our-people/board-election-parent-representatives-2025>

or make a time to talk to Principal Katrina Kerr-Bell on 04-566 1089 opt 2 or

kerrbellk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz

or John van Woerkom our Board Presiding Member botchair@sacredheartcollege.school.nz



12ECO & 13ECO Parliament Trip

On Wednesday 16 July the Year 12 and 13 Economics students had the privilege of travelling to Parliament to listen to a post-budget panel and Q&A hosted by the Victoria University School of Business and Government. We listened to an opening address from the Leader of the Opposition, Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, followed by a panel discussion of insights from economists Craig Renney (NZCTU), and Mark Cox (Business New Zealand) who explained the ins and outs of the newly released budget by the current National government as well as the process the Government goes through when forming a new budget. Joined by 300 other economics students from schools around Wellington, we were encouraged to ask questions and dissect the Government's budget process in a Q&A after the panel and were also joined by Labour MP, Hon Barbara Edmonds. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and insightful experience from which we learned a lot.

Menara Surendra (13AP)

Japanese Visit

We were excited to welcome to SHC this week, 10 students from Sakai City in Osaka, Japan. They will be with us for two weeks, sharing in our school life and culture. This visit is especially meaningful as it follows our Year 10 students' trip to Sakai last year, where they explored Japanese language and culture firsthand. It's wonderful to continue building this international friendship.



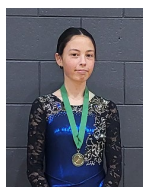
Sport

Sport Outside of School

Football: A fantastic achievement for **Maddie Sharkey** (11EB) who has been recognised with selection in the New Zealand U16 Women's Football team to compete in the OFC Qualifier in Samoa, part of the pathway to next year's U17 Women's World Cup. Maddie heads into camp in Auckland on 27 July before flying out with the team to Samoa for the tournament from 1-14 August. We wish Maddie all the best for the tournament.



Artistic Roller Skating: Well done to Artistic Roller skater **Sophia Heagren** (11NR) on recent achievements. Sophia recently won the Central Areas Competition, which also means she won the Wellington College Sport medal for this event. Sophia also competed at the NZ National Competition and placed first in Youth Ladies Figures making her a New Zealand Champion.



Sophia continues to be in the NZ High Performance squad and may compete in Pacific Cup, an International Event in Brisbane in late August this year.

Water Polo: **Maya McLay** (11EB) has been presented with an opportunity to play in the USA Junior Olympics Water Polo Tournament being held in Los Angeles next month. She is playing at the USA Junior Olympics Water Polo U16s for Navy Aquatics which is a US based club. Congratulations Maya.

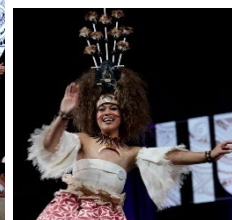


HuttFest

Hutt Fest for 2025 was a successful celebration of Pacific culture, where schools from across the Hutt Valley came together to proudly represent their



heritage through song and dance. This year Tokelau, Tuvalu, Tonga and Samoa were showcased with pride and meaning in the Sacred Heart Senior Poly Group, with each bracket reflecting a unique story of our theme: honouring ancestral legacies. The Junior Poly Group showcased the cultures of Tonga, Samoa, and the Cook Islands. Students were at the heart of the event, guided by dedicated teachers like Mr Isaacs and Mrs Lia Ramesi. Key community members also played a vital role in helping both groups complete successful performances, including Masi, who mentored the Senior Poly Group and its leaders and Keke, who led the Junior Poly group with the help of Tevita. A huge thank you goes out to the Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Samoan drummers, as well as the Tongan musicians, organised by Mele Latu and Mr Isaacs. Behind the scenes, parents worked hard making accessories, providing transport, and showing their unwavering support throughout the journey. We are incredibly proud of both groups' performances as they represented their cultures and school with pride, grace, and skill. Well done to all students involved.



HuttFest was a great opportunity for all the Kapa Haka members to perform at this amazing Festival. The group prepared for this event by attending long hours of practice after school. Big thanks to our leaders Molly Mato and Tracey Tupuivao for your time in preparing us for this event.



Photos available on HuttFest website [here](#) and video on YouTube at youtube.com/@huttfest?si=ap9hqqogannovapa (Poly & Kapa Haka)

Kapa Haka Performance - All Blacks v France

On 12 July 2025 the Kapa Haka students had the opportunity to take part in an amazing performance with the well-known Patea Māori club in the half time entertainment. They performed the famous poi 'Poi e'.



Places are still available on the Game On! Petone course
Register by Wednesday 30 July at [Game On! Registration](#)

Catholic
Social Services

people helping people āwhina tātou

GAME ON!

AN 8 WEEK PARENTING COURSE JUST FOR DADS

**WE SUPPORT DADS TO BE THE BEST DAD THEY CAN BE FOR
THEIR KIDS. JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE WHAT WE WANT FOR
OUR KIDS AND WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO MAKE A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE**

LEARN.CONNECT.SHARE



WHEN: EVERY WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY - 10TH SEPT
6.30PM - 8.30PM

WHERE: PETONE COMMUNITY HOUSE
6 BRITANNIA ST
PETONE, LOWER HUTT

COST: FREE

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 30TH JULY

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US
RECEPTION@WN.CATHOLIC.ORG.NZ
OR RING FRANCIS 021 0887 4824**



Sacred Heart College

Got a question or concern? Who to contact?

Kaiārahi, Deans, Guidance Counsellors, Sport, Finance

Deans	Ako	Kaiārahi	Kaiārahi Email
Year 9 Dean Erica Tuese (ET) tuese@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	9BE	Bandana Reshmi	reshmib@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9DY	David Young	youngd@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9EO	Emma Lodge	lodgee@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9JO	Jackson Oliver	oliverj@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9LL	Levaea Lia-Ramese	lial@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9MI	Mike Isaacs	isaacsm@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	9SC	Sarah Jane Clifford-Duncan	cliffords@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Year 10 Co-Dean Tim Baxter (TB) baxtert@sacredheartcollege.school.nz Currently on leave Year 10 Co-Dean Nikki Payne (NP) paynen@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	10BD	Bronwyn Davies	daviesb@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10CA	Carolyn Rameka	ramekac@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10CY	Caitlyn Farley	farleyc@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10DB	Deborah Blythen	blythend@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10EG	Eloisa Genova	genovae@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10RL	Rachel Laidler	laidlerr@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	10UC	Udeni Chammika	chammikau@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Year 11 Peter Miller (PM) millerp@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	11CM	Carolyn Hamer	hamerc@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11EB	Emma Blackmore	blackmoree@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11GT	Lydie Guyot	guyotl@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11JS	Jon Screech	screechj@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11LP	Lucy Paul	paull@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11NR	Natalie Rutherford	rutherfordn@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	11RH	Richard Hatcliffe	hatcliffer@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Year 12 Claire Risk (CR) riskc@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	11TC	Tanya Conradie	conradiet@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12AW	Aimee Williams	williamsa@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12JG	Julia Greaney	greaneyj@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12MC	Martin Curwen	curwenm@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12MD	Mademarie De Jager	dejagerm@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12SB	Simon Blandford	blandfords@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	12SD	Saul Treadwell	treadwells@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Year 13 Fiona Trappitt (FT) trappittf@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	12SL	Sharon Lapwood	lapwoods@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	13AP	Anna Peszynski	peszynskia@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	13JB	Judith Bergman	bergmanj@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	13KF	Kent Findlay	findlayk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	13KK	Katrina Kerr-Bell	kerrbellk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	13LE	Sarah Adams	adamss@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Year 13 Fiona Trappitt (FT) trappittf@sacredheartcollege.school.nz	13TK	Thom King	kingt@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	Pastoral Dean	Nicola Pollard	pollardn@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	Guidance Counsellors	Dannie Fugler (Monday-Friday)	fuglerd@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
		Kirsten Edie (Thursday-Friday)	ediek@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
	Sport	Simone Naylor (Sport Director)	naylors@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
		Jessie Robertson (Sport Coordinator – Netball)	robertsonj@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Finance	Michelle Pretorius		shcaccounts@sacredheartcollege.school.nz
Principal	Katrina Kerr-Bell		kerrbellk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz