

SHC Heartbeat

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart

Issue 19
December 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

Mana Whenua

A Heart for the Land

- ♥ I care for God's world
- ♥ I leave classrooms clean and tidy
- ♥ I help keep the school litter free
- ♥ I respect all school property

Nau mai, haere mai, e te whānau,

I have recently returned from the **NZ Catholic Principals' Conference**, where the keynote speaker, **Rev Dr Richard Laurenson**, spoke powerfully on our theme for the year: Pilgrims of Hope. He reflected on the story of the Annunciation, when Mary was asked to be the mother of Jesus. She had a choice, and she said **yes**. He challenged us to consider that others were asked and said no, reminding us that we too are invited to say yes to Jesus in our own lives.

As we close the year, may we be people of **faith, hope, and love**, and this Christmas may you celebrate these three gifts with family and friends.

I am deeply grateful for the partnerships we share with families and our wider community. We are only ever as strong as the relationships we build and the way we work together for the good of our students.

It has been a full and positive end to the year. Last week we held our first **Sisterhood Shield**, a mini version of the O'Shea Shield. Each house group competed in events including Year 9 prepared speeches, Year 10 impromptu speeches, debating, scripture reading in English and Te Reo, and waiata. It was a wonderful day, and we were so impressed by the quality of student participation.

This week, our **Year 10 students enjoyed camp**, and our senior leaders attended **YCL camp** alongside leaders from the nine Catholic colleges. These experiences have been a fitting way to finish the year, celebrating learning, leadership, and community.

Sadly, we farewell a number of valued staff who have contributed so much to Sacred Heart College:

Lesley Davies – Commerce

Seteuati Nofoaiga – TIC Languages

Nicola Pollard – Assistant HoD Health & PE (becoming Deputy Principal at St Catherine's College)

Judith Bergman – HoD Mathematics (retiring)

Jackson Oliver – moving to teach in Hawke's Bay

Ceri Jenkins – Assistant HoD Social Science

Tia Brown – Science (remaining in Australia)

Sharon Lapwood – Science (moving to Nelson to be closer to family)

Vicky Thorby – Business Manager

We thank them for their dedication and wish them every blessing in their next chapter.

Looking ahead, we are almost fully staffed for 2026 and will introduce our new team in the new year. We are currently advertising for a [Business Manager](#), please share this link with anyone who may be interested.

As we journey forward as *Pilgrims of Hope*, may we continue to walk together in faith, hope, and love.

Ngā manaakitanga, Katrina Kerr-Bell Principal

Meri Kirihimete, Hari tau hou hoki!– Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Leavers

If your student is in Years 9-12 and is not returning to Sacred Heart College in 2026, please email the College to let us know college@sacredheartcollege.school.nz

Uniform and Presentation Standards

As we approach the holiday break, we kindly ask for your support in maintaining our school's expectations around uniform and personal presentation.

Facial Piercings

Please do not allow your student to get facial piercings during the holidays, as these are not permitted at school. This includes nose and eyebrow piercings. Students may wear a maximum of two small earrings per ear – sleepers and/or studs only, not hoops. If students arrive at school with additional piercings, they will be asked to remove them.

Summer Footwear

Sandals are part of our summer uniform. They must be dark brown or black and have a back strap for safety and compliance.

Examples of acceptable sandals are shown below.

Sandals without a back strap are not permitted.

Why These Standards Matter

These guidelines help reinforce a sense of pride and belonging within our school community. We appreciate your continued support in upholding these expectations.



Start of Year 2026

Week 1	Time	Year Level
Mon 26 Jan	8.00am	Office Opens
	9.00am-3.00pm	Student Leadership Planning Day
	9.30am-12.30pm	Course Confirmation by Appointment
	1.00-2.00pm	Course Confirmation Drop-Ins
Tues 27 Jan	Staff Only Day	
	8.00-10.00am	Uniform Shop Open
Wed 28 Jan	Staff Only Day	
Thur 29 Jan	8.00-10.00am	Uniform Shop
	8.45am-3.20pm	Year 9 Orientation Day starting with Powhiri
	8.45am-3.20pm	Year 12 Peer Supporters
	11.00am-1.00pm	Course Confirmation (Senior) by Appointment
Fri 30 Jan	10.00-11.30am	International Student Orientation
	8.45am-2.45pm	Year 9 Special Character Day
	8.45am-2.45pm	Year 12 Peer Supporters
	2.00-2.45pm	Year 9 Liturgy
Week 2	2.45pm	Year 9 Whānau BBQ
Mon 2 Feb	8.00-9.00am	Uniform Shop Open
	8.45am-3.20pm	Whole School

See our school website for [2026 Term Dates](#)

2026 Stationery / BYOD

The stationery lists are on our [website](#), along with the recommended BYOD specifications.

The stationery lists are also live on OfficeMax's [MySchool](#) website.

Every purchase from OfficeMax in December 2025 and January 2026 earns Sacred Heart College 8% of what you spend. A great way to support our school

Trades Academy

The following were presented with 2025 Wellington Trades Academy Kaiako Awards:

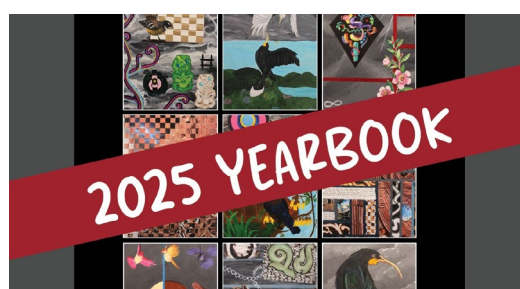
- **Imogen Waihape** – Outstanding Growth and Most Improved Student (Barbering)
- **Yasmin Holsted-Russo** – Most Diligent Student with Positive Attitude to Completing Work (Construction Mixed Trades)
- **Rangitiare Graham** – Outstanding Overall Effort: Producing Excellent Theory and Practical Work (Construction Mixed Trades)
- **Caitlin Barber** - Outstanding Attitude, Diligence and Achievement (Engineering & Automotive)

Congratulations and well done to them all.

2025 Yearbook

Preorders are now open for this year's yearbook via [this link](#).

Don't miss out, orders close on 19 January 2026. The yearbook can be shipped direct to you, or collected from the school office when school opens next year.



Songwriting Workshop with Emma Rutherford

On 14 November 10DB were lucky enough to have a visit from local singer/songwriter Emma Rutherford who is also a teacher aide in our kura. Emma talked to us about drawing inspiration from different aspects of her life when writing songs. She spoke about her journey growing up in a small town and moving to Wellington to pursue her dreams of making music. Our class learnt about the resilience and courage it takes to create and release your own songs especially as a New Zealand artist and we were given helpful insight for writing our own songs. We are extremely grateful to Emma for coming in and sharing her knowledge and experience with us and are very excited to begin our songwriting in class.

Renny Collins 10DB



Year 10 Tournament Day

Year 10 Tournament Day on Tuesday was a huge success. We all enjoyed the sunny weather and getting to play sports with our fellow students. The day was full of smiling faces and real competition, but most of all a lot of fun. The overall class winner on the day was 10UC but there were many wins during the day, and I think all the Year 10s would agree that tournament day was full of laughter and excitement; a day to remember for sure.

Grace Simmonds 10BD



The Sisterhood Shield

Last week, Sacred Heart College hosted the inaugural Sisterhood Shield, a celebration of our college's special character, creativity, and school values. The event brought together all six houses to compete in a range of activities, including scripture reading, impromptu speaking, prepared speeches, and the much-anticipated whole-house religious song.

Congratulations to our outstanding winners: **Angelia Ioane** (Year 9 Speech Competition), **Fa'ailoga Tuvale** (English Religious Scripture Reading), **Molly Carroll** (Te Reo Māori Scripture Reading), and **Renny Collins** (Year 10 Impromptu Speaking). A special mention also goes to Siena House, who not only won the Whole House Religious Song category but

Year 9 Marae Visits

Each year the Year 9 students spend a day at Koraunui Marae in Stokes Valley, with their Ako and Social Studies teachers. The students start the day with Powhiri, and a shared morning tea, and learn how to make a harakeke flower (flax flower). After a hāngi lunch the students work together to make a poi each, then learn a poi action song, led by the girls from the Kapa Haka group and Mrs Frost. It was a busy and rewarding day. A huge thank you to the staff that made this trip possible, and Mrs Frost for sharing her expert knowledge.

Ceri Jenkins, Assistant HOD Social Sciences



Duke of Edinburgh Training Days

Our Duke of Edinburgh Training Days were a fantastic experience for all involved, with students throwing themselves into the activities with enthusiasm, teamwork, and plenty of laughter.



Throughout the two days, students rotated through a series of hands-on sessions designed to prepare them for their upcoming journeys. They learned First Aid skills, practised tent pitching, brushed up on their navigation techniques, and took part in trip planning to understand how to prepare for a safe and successful tramp.

One of the highlights was definitely cooking, with students creating some truly delicious meals on their camp stoves. It was a shame that the second day's cooking session had to be cancelled due to the weather, but the impressive culinary efforts from Day One more than made up for it.

It's wonderful to see how many students have already signed up to complete the Award this year, and we're excited to support them on their journey. For those who still wish to register, you can do so online at:

<https://www.onlinerecordbook.org/fo/register/participant/welcome> or contact mcguinnessk@sacredheartcollege.school.nz

We look forward to seeing our students continue to grow in confidence, resilience, and leadership through the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

Kath McGuinness, DOE Coordinator

also claimed the overall Sisterhood Shield title, by just one point!

This competition also serves as excellent preparation for our kura as we look forward to hosting the O'Shea Shield in 2026. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported this special occasion. We look forward to making it even bigger and better next year.

Mike Isaacs



Peer Support 2026 Training

Peer Support Leaders 2026 have been taking part in their extensive training programme Monday and Tuesday this week. They have had guest speakers including our DRS, school counsellor, past peer supporters and team building coaches, and can't wait to welcome their Year 9 teina on 29 January 2026.



Sport

Junior Summer Tournament Week – Volleyball

Sacred Heart entered two teams in the North Island Satellite Junior Volleyball Tournament held at Te Rauparaha in Porirua. Our Tigers (Year 9) team came 10th in the tournament, a great achievement as most of the players began volleyball this year.



A huge congratulations to our Cubs (Year 10) team who won the tournament in the final against Aotea College. Both **Arabelle Bernadine Eslera** and **Charlotte Perez** were in the tournament team and **Arabelle** was Most Valuable Player overall.

We are so fortunate to have the support of our amazing volleyball community who make this happen; Tessa Siolo-Thompson, Nevo Siolo-Tuiletufuga, Vante Siolo, Bernie Time-Scrimshaw, Del Vena, Jada-Skipper King, Kiana Urianu, **Sueanna William Ah Ken**, **Prezley Easthorpe**, Gibeon Pole'o and **Meleane Pole'o**.

College Sport Wellington (CSW) Tournaments

Touch Junior

Sacred Heart entered two teams in the CSW tournament held in November. Our Junior A team lost the final to St Orans 4-3 and our Junior B team came 6th. Thanks to Al Teteveno, Karen Wong and Claire Risk for supporting our teams.

Kilikiti Junior

Sacred Heart entered three teams in this tournament and a great day was had by all. Our 3 teams played against each other and the Teuila team won the tournament to be named Junior CSW Champions. Thanks to Sinapi Taeao, Seteuati Nofoaiga and **Bettylicia Sa'u** for supporting our teams.



Softball

Sacred Heart entered a softball team in the Junior CSW tournament. The team came second in the Division 2 Mixed grade. Thanks to Ashleigh Roil and **Pearl Masoe** for supporting our team.



Sport Cont.

End of Term 4 Summer Sport

We are coming to the end of Term 4 sport, and our teams have done very well in the College Sport competitions. Highlights are:

Floorball

This term our two teams played in the new CSW league played at Walter Nash on Tuesdays. The teams had another great season and are now looking forward to the first College Sport tournament in Term 1 2026. Thanks to Sheree Ashton and Anna Williams for supporting the teams.

Futsal

Senior A - Last game of futsal last Friday. The end of an era for our year 13 students **Caitlin Barber**, **Arnika Lahood**,



Maddi Hoult and **Hayley Winter**. The team won the final against Heretaunga 3-0. A huge thank you to Gavin Barber who has generously given up his time to coach the girls over Caitlin's time at Sacred Heart.

Senior Red - Our senior red team played in the Division 2 final on Friday with a loss, but it was a great effort to reach the final and thanks to Bridget Hutchison for managing the team this term.

Touch

Both our Junior A and Junior Red teams reached their finals. Our Junior A played St Mary's in the Division 1 final and won the competition. Thank you to Al Teteveno and Claire Risk for leading our junior touch programme this term.



Volleyball

Sacred Heart had a very good season with 10 teams entered and lots of great games played. The following teams reached the Hutt Valley finals: Tigers won Division 1, Cheetahs won Division 2 against Heretaunga in the final, Jaguars won Haukuru (Division 3).

Thank you to all the coaches and managers who helped to make this a great term of volleyball.

Other Sport News

Badminton

Well done to the winners of our Term 4 badminton double league:

Year 9:

1st **Liyana Elvis**, 2nd **Easton Rawiri-Boyd**, 3rd **Lucia Faapusa**

Year 10: 1st **Sophia Mathieson**, 2nd **Julianna Dela Pena**, 3rd **Kaitlyn Atienza**

Basketball

Congratulations **Nevayah Marino** and **Athena Papalii** who were part of the girls' team who won the Intercity U14 Spring Tournament. The girls played in the boys' league and have won this tournament for the second time in a row. Both players are part of the BNL U16 Girls Ignition Programme.

