



30 November 2016

Dear parents and caregivers,

Subject: Trinity Schools - a year in review

Creating an environment for young people to thrive requires investment – investment in our facilities, investment in our special character and investment in our people. As proprietor of the Trinity Schools, the Trinity Schools Trust Board works closely with our three Boards of Trustees, Principals and their leadership teams, and the Ministry of Education to ensure that our investment decisions meet the needs of our young people today and into the future.

This review of 2016 covers a number of topics – a short overview on the role of the Trust Board and our strategic focus; an update on the significant investment in our facilities; work to progress our special character and initiatives to better leverage the advantages our unique structure offers through working *Together As One*.

The Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB)

The Trinity Schools Trust Board is the proprietor or owner of three integrated schools; Hadlow School, Rathkeale College and St Matthew's Collegiate School, and the private Hadlow Preschool. It is the Trust Board as proprietor that holds the three Integration Agreements with the Crown and as such is the legal guardian of the Special Character of the Trinity Schools. Trust Board members are appointed and include representatives from the Anglican church, wider Trinity Schools and Wairarapa community.



Trinity Schools Trust Board members, School Principals and Chief Executive Officer. From left; Michael Mercer (Hadlow Principal), Kiri Gill (St Matthew's Principal), Mike Shaw (Board Deputy Chair), May Croft, Lawrence Field, Leanne Allen-Jones, Marina Adams, Esther Dijkstra, Rob Blackett (Chief Executive Officer), Denise Beazley (Board Chair), Willy Kersten (Rathkeale Principal).

During the year we also welcomed two new Board members, Matt Hood and Richard Baker. Both bring strong commercial, financial and strategic skills to our Board table.



Matt Hood



Richard Baker

We would like to acknowledge former TSTB Board Chair Craig Clouston who passed away in June this year. Craig was an influential, dedicated and loyal member of the Board and is sadly missed.

Sustainable Infrastructure

One of the most visible ways parents, students and the community can see the work of the Trust Board in collaboration with the Boards and Schools is through investment in our facilities.

Some of this investment has gone into caring for our facilities and environment, and some on new and future-focused facilities.

Earthquake strengthening is the biggest investment we have made over the past few years. However, the need to do significant earthquake strengthening work across our three schools has offered an opportunity to improve facilities and learning environments for our students. We initially focused on boarding facilities but more recently our focus has been on classrooms, dining facilities, offices and toilets. Our school buildings now provide a much safer environment than most other schools in the Wellington region.

The cost of work to earthquake strengthen our facilities has been significant. However, as the recent earthquakes remind us, we live in an environment where an earthquake can strike at any time, and we have a duty to ensure the safety of all our staff and the students in our care.



St Matthew's Upper Classroom Block following strengthening and refurbishment.

At St Matthew's Collegiate School, the strengthening and modernisation of the Upper Classroom block completed in November this year has provided a much lighter, brighter and versatile learning environment for the girls and their teachers. We are proud to announce that the day girl toilets have been replaced with an ablution block which aligns with our approach to gender diversity.

At Rathkeale College, one of the first encounters with the College for new boys is when they are fitted for their uniform. The old building was not a great advertisement for the College. The new uniform shop will include a larger building footprint with improved customer access, larger display areas, more functional storage and an improved tuckshop.



Construction is underway on the Rathkeale Uniform Shop and Tuckshop.

An official opening to mark the completion of the facilities at St Matthew's is planned for the start of the 2017 teaching year, as is a celebration to mark the opening of the new uniform and tuck shop at Rathkeale.

At Hadlow School, the enhancement of all four learning Hubs into modern learning environments offers students from year 1 to 8 the opportunity to learn in warm, bright, open, student friendly spaces. Hubs 1 and 2 were the last of the classroom spaces to be upgraded and were completed in August. Students in these hubs, like their older peers whose learning spaces were opened out and upgraded in earlier phases, are now benefitting from a more suitable environment for the school's modern teaching practices. Hadlow is now recognised by many as a showcase school for modern / future focused learning and regularly hosts groups from other schools who aspire to a similar approach.



Hadlow modern learning spaces – open, warm, bright and student friendly.

In 2017, proprietor funds will enable other projects to commence, all with a view to enhancing the facilities at our schools.

Health and Safety Update

In preparation for the enactment of the Health and Safety Act 2016, the Trust Board commissioned and funded an independent audit of the health and safety of our facilities across all three schools and the Preschool in December 2015. Each school has worked with the Trust Board and their respective Board of Trustees to action the recommended improvements throughout the year. More recently we requested a follow-up audit which has demonstrated significant improvement in our systems and physical environment. This benefits our staff, our students and all visitors to our schools.

Leveraging Together As One

By working together we can enhance the opportunities for our students throughout their learning journey, helping them grow to be resilient and caring leaders of our future world. The benefits of this approach are equally true for our teachers, our wider Wairarapa community and the long term relevance and sustainability of our Trinity Schools. *Together As One*, at a practical level means *Better Together*.

This year we have made the most of a number of opportunities to work more closely together and share expertise and ideas. In July the TSTB and the three Boards of Trustees came together for a workshop to identify opportunities to work more closely and collaboratively across the Trinity family on both operational/governance initiatives and longer term strategic planning. More on these opportunities will be evident in 2017 and beyond.



Richard Toovey (St Matthew's Board Chair) and Lawrence Field (TSTB) during the July strategy workshop.

School Rolls

Demand for day student places at our schools continues to exceed the number of places available. Domestic boarder numbers and internationals are the highest they have been for three years. This is true testament to the calibre of our Principals and staff who are committed to providing the best possible education for our students. Whilst it is heartening to know that our schools are considered the educational providers of choice for so many families, it also means that not all day student applications can be accepted. However, a limited number of boarding spaces are still available for 2017.

Special Character

As the legal guardian of the Special Character of our schools, the TSTB is focused on playing its part to ensure that Anglican faith is central to all activities within the schools. Every student, regardless of their background or beliefs, is expected to participate in the spiritual life of the school.

For generations Maori have believed that the doorway to physical, mental and relational health is through spiritual health (see the "Te Whare Tapa Wha" model for Maori health). In study after study, modern research is affirming a positive correlation between religious belief and wellbeing, self-esteem, lowered rates of anxiety and depression, ability to cope with adversity, performance at school and numerous other factors. In today's society many of these factors are becoming increasingly important and this will continue to encourage TSTB and our schools to maintain focus on our Special Character.

We welcome input from our wider community into the continued success of our Trinity family of schools. Feel free to talk to any member of the Board if you have questions or ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Beazley
TSTB Chair

Rob Blackett
Chief Executive Officer