



8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

### **Trinity Schools Trust Board – a year in review – 2020**

It hasn't been the easiest year to be a student, nor to teach, to run a school or a boarding facility. Our Trinity family of schools have certainly faced new and unexpected challenges in 2020 due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. We want to acknowledge the hard work and collaborative approach taken by Trinity staff behind the scenes to enable our system to function under difficult circumstances.

Our strategy is focused on Best Self and how we enable each student, staff member and teacher across Trinity to achieve this. Considerable work has gone into progressing this strategy and fund various initiatives. Our staff have worked closely with colleagues in each of the schools and preschool throughout the year to find ways to make student and staff lives easier. Despite the limitations of the various alert levels, our work has continued across our family of schools. Some of this work hasn't cost a great deal of money (and some has!), but each initiative has made a difference.

Across all three schools there is now new, more energy efficient LED lighting, improved heating, and new acoustic panels in our classrooms to dampen the hubbub, all making it easier to see, hear and focus for enthusiastic learners. These are just some of the projects that have kept our property team busy.

Upgraded and additional exterior lighting has been installed at each site, making it easier and safer to navigate around the schools at night. There has been further work to improve traffic flows and make parking and drop off areas safer for students, staff and visitors. Newly installed speed humps and drop zones, at Hadlow for example now enable what principal Andrew Osmond describes as "Kiss and Run" zones, a bit like airport and hotel drop off areas.

The summer holiday 2020/21 work programme at each school is equally as busy. This is the longest break of the year and also the one with the best weather, enabling major projects like upgrading underground services and resurfacing the quad possible at Hadlow, along with installing new acoustic panels in the Hadlow staffroom and constructing further break out spaces and installing new technology. Line marking in the quad for netball, four-square, checkers, junior tennis and other play and sport will be done during term 1 as the new surface will take time to cure.

The list of work to improve facilities at each site is long. New chimneys, toilets, changing facilities and showers (such as those used by the girls at Senior College), the completion of a major strengthening and extension project at Hadlow preschool, together with an upgrade to the playground. It is a never-ending cycle of capital maintenance and new initiatives to keep our boarding, learning, sports, arts and office facilities safe, sustainable and relevant for a changing world.

It's also been a year of considerable work to re-open much missed facilities like Lazarus at St Matthews and the Trust House Auditorium at Rathkeale. This year for the first time in four years St Matthews students were able to sit their exams in Lazarus, rather than having to take over the Music Suite. Lazarus was once the original school hall before being moved some years ago to accommodate the new hall (Cleghorn). It is the building at the end of the swimming pool area and has historically been used for everything from dance and sports lessons to exam centre, drama and meetings.

Shut for four years due to not meeting earthquake regulations, the building has now been strengthened, and features a raft of improvements, making it safer, warmer, easier to heat, light and maintain. Speaking of the St Matthews swimming pool, thanks to a new heat hump system installed this year which replaced the heating system on the roof of Lazarus, St Matthews students can now enjoy a more consistent and warmer heat in the swimming pool.



*Completed Preschool building and grounds*

*Lazarus set up for NCEA exams*

*Hub 4 breakout space*

Equally good news is to see the reopening of the Trust House Auditorium at Rathkeale. The closing of this facility and the connected offices has been a major challenge for the school. Walking into the Auditorium in December 2020, not much seems to be different other than perhaps a spruce up. It's what lies beneath (and above) that makes this facility so much better and safer. Twenty six tonnes of steel reinforcing and 220 cubic metres of concrete, along with features like improved acoustics, lighting, heating, cooling, sound systems, enhancements to the stage and storage, a lift onto the stage... The building and offices will be completed over the summer break and an official reopening is planned for early in 2021.



*Rathkeale Prizegiving 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020*

On the people front it has been a year of farewells and welcomes. In January we welcomed Jeanette McMenemy who replaced Vanessa Herrick and Sherry Garrity. We also farewelled Deb Castles (now based at Rathkeale) and welcomed Chloe Dancey to our accounts team. Our Senior Advisor Kim Whiteman left in July – her energy and enthusiasm will be missed. We have appointed Ann-Louise Gouws as Business Services Manager to lead our finance team. Ann-Louise started in September and is quickly learning the ropes. The TSTB staff should be commended for the way in which they continued to operate during lockdown.

Trust Board member Mike Shaw and Bishop's representative Archdeacon May Croft retired from the Trust Board this year. Both will be sorely missed and we thank them for the many many hours they gave so willingly in support of Trinity Schools. We welcome John Kirkup and Chris Stewart who will be joining the Board at the start of 2021. The new year also sees the appointment of a new Board chair, with Lisa Rossiter taking over at the start of 2021. Lisa is also a parish representative on the Board.

Over the coming year we will continue to focus on enabling Best Self across our family of schools. Looking forward, we must recognise and support diversity in our schools. Our world is changing and we need to adapt to these changes. Encouraging diversity will create a more inclusive school community; a community we can all be proud to call our own.

In a year like no other, we thank each and every one of our Trinity team for their efforts.

Yours sincerely,



Denise Beazley  
TSTB Chair  
(Retiring December 2020)



Rob Blakett  
Chief Executive Officer