

Synod Report 2023

St Margaret's College has continued our long tradition of academic, sporting, and cultural achievements this year; something that we can all be very proud of. Our strong reputation, combined with small class sizes, modern campus facilities and commitment to continual improvement have been maintained.

It is my pleasure to highlight just some of the successes we have had in the last 12 months. We were proactive in developing our Foundation Diploma, stepping away from Level 1 NCEA to create a fit for purpose programme that has academic rigour and enables our girls to advance seamlessly into their preferred academic pathways of either NCEA or International Baccalaureate. We are well ahead of other schools in this area as was recognised by an invitation to present at the upcoming Asia Pacific Summit on Girls' Education.

Our Junior School has developed a strong reputation as a leading structured literacy school, with educators from around the country visiting to see our teaching team in action. We have introduced a Middle School careers pilot to ignite and inspire ideas and opportunities for future pathways and our Aspiring programme continues to challenge girls across these important developmental years.

We are proud that over 90% of our girls participated in sports at SMC in 2022, producing numerous national finalists and international representatives. To be on the podium for hockey, netball, rowing, tennis as well debating, Ethics Olympiad, Future Problem Solving and Shakespeare is an extraordinary feat. Our growth areas of cricket, contemporary music and dance, football, rugby, and volleyball continue to develop the array of talent we have here at SMC.

It has certainly been a busy year for all of us and, as always, we owe a great deal of gratitude to many people. We have staff who consistently go above and beyond their normal duties and many volunteers, including our Parents and Friends Association, Old Girls' Association and Foundation, who give freely of their time and efforts to support SMC in many ways. The Board would like to thank Diana Patchett and the wider team for their work to provide holistic education and a wealth of co-curricular opportunities, to grow well-rounded individuals and nurture each girl's unique strengths.

We would like to acknowledge and recognise the efforts of our fellow Board members for their skill and dedication over the past year, with special mention and thanks to Vicki Green and Andrew Hawkes who have retiring from the Board after many years of service. We have been fortunate to welcome two new Board

members, Melanie Muirson and Tim Rookes, who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Board table.

We are committed to creating empathetic, confident, and connected global citizens, who strive to make a positive difference. The Board shares the community desire to maintain and improve the academic, cultural, sporting, and personal opportunities available to the girls at SMC, understanding and responding to their development over the course of their time with us while enhancing the warm big-sister-little-sister relationships.

The Board is also proud of the College initiatives undertaken in support of our Sustainability Charter responsibilities, including plans to maintain and improve our social and community connections, this year's propagation of 6,000 native plants and trees, as well as greater efficiencies being realised in power and waste on campus. The SMC community has generously supported the work of UNICEF (Solomon Islands) and Dignity NZ through our own Educating Girls Globally charity, as well as invaluable contributions to the Christchurch City Mission, Red Cross, and Cancer Society.

Our strategy is focused on providing continuous improvement to our campus. Our goal is to provide a leading, future fit for purpose environment for our girls and staff. Our new playground was up and running for the new school year, as well as the renovation of our Kilburn boarding house and upgrade of our swimming pool.

We are intent on reigniting our successful exchanges and special trips as we move out of the post-Covid constraints. Following our national success in Future Problem Solving, we will send a team to the international competition in Massachusetts, USA. We look forward to our reciprocal rowing exchange with St Margaret's Anglican Girls School (Brisbane) going ahead, as well as an inaugural cultural, language and service exchange with Lycée Samuel Raapoto in Tahiti.

The Trust Board's governance role is to ensure St Margaret's is financially sustainable whilst providing the very best possible education for our girls now and into the future. Our focus is always to respect our heritage, while ensuring our present and future girls are the core reason for existence and that SMC aspires to be the most sought-after girls' school, for what our girls become and what they contribute to the world.



Di Humphries
Chairperson