



St Margaret's College

St Margaret's College Synod Report 2026

Education has been at the forefront of national conversation over the past year, and it is deeply reassuring to see St Margaret's College consistently ahead of the conversation. Our teaching staff had identified needs and implemented innovative solutions long before they became government priorities. These include the introduction of our Foundation Diploma offering an alternative to NCEA Level 1, our tailored Middle School curriculum designed specifically for the needs of girls in Years 7-10, our explicit literacy and numeracy teaching in the Junior School, and our Preschool's comprehensive transition-to-school programme.

The results speak volumes. In 2025, our girls once again achieved the highest academic results in Christchurch, and amongst the highest globally for the International Baccalaureate. These remarkable achievements reflect the dedication of our students, our exceptional teaching staff, and the support of our community.

St Margaret's success extends far beyond academic results. The New Zealand Herald named St Margaret's the top girls' sporting school for 2025 following "a staggering sporting year." Our athletes claimed three national titles in hockey, rowing, and volleyball, alongside countless South Island and regional championships across a diverse range of sports.

In the performing arts, we have witnessed exciting growth in our contemporary music programme, with 16 rock bands formed over the past year. Our younger musicians delivered standout performances at Bandquest, while three senior performance groups were selected to perform at Nostalgia Festival 2026.

Our 115th year brought our community together; from the Parents and Friends Association's (PFA) Family Picnic, to the 50th Cranmer Ladies' Lunch. The PFA's parent education series provided valuable support for families navigating the challenges of raising children, while the Old Girls' Association's Career Bytes connected current students with inspiring alumnae. We are profoundly grateful for

the support we receive from our community, including our valued relationship with the Synod.

St Margaret's also remains grateful to our dedicated teaching staff committed to setting our girls up for success. Rachel Wilford was recognised by the Independent Schools of New Zealand Honours Awards for Services to Choral Music, while Executive Principal Diana Patchett serves on the board of Independent Schools of New Zealand, and Head of Middle School Kathryn Gray is the only New Zealand Seconded Representative to the Adolescent Success Committee.

We are also thankful to our Boarding and International teams who support families who have entrusted their daughters to us, from around New Zealand and as far afield as Germany and the United States.

At the heart of all we do continues to be a dedication to a higher purpose. From the earliest days of the Sisters of the Church, who answered the call to serve, to the many who continue to strengthen that legacy, including through our college charity Educating Girls Globally, we are united by shared values and a belief in the power of education to transform lives.

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