



**Year 12 Geography students explore Tongariro National Park**

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**Thrilling end to the season for Waikato B grade winners!**

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**Programming team win Waikato secondary school division**



## Message from the Principal

### Dear Parents

A big thank you to all those involved with winter sport as it winds down for 2025. Some 73% of our student body participates in sport and it is only through the enormous volunteer support from you, our community, and the staff, that we are able to field so many teams and codes. I appreciate that it is a thankless task at times, but your sons will remember in years to come that when they played you were there helping. I must also mention the great work in the arts this year, it seems that there have been more opportunities than ever with production, show quest, itinerant musical performance, the Big Sing, Chanel Shield (we won!), and most recently the Catholic cultural festival held here at Saint John's. A recent music assembly where boys performed is the best I have ever experienced.

I regularly speak to the boys about the privilege of being a Marist Man and a Johnnies boy and that the mates made at Saint John's will be with you for life, through both good and bad times. We recently hosted a 40th reunion of the 1st XV team from 1985 - of which I was a member. Remarkably 16 (not-so-young) men turned up, some from as far away as Perth. We started with a tour of the school which, in terms of facilities, is light years away from what it was like in our day (just post integration), however we knew nothing different at the time and were content with what we had. They old boys were genuinely proud to see their school thriving with outstanding facilities, it was evident that they are all very proud to be associated with the College.

While taking them around the College I heard them as they joked and reminisced about all the shenanigans we got up to. We finished the weekend by attending the All Blacks game against France. Forty years has passed but time melts away when you meet up with people you are close to. Boys' schools in particular are exceptional at engendering in young men a sense of connectedness to something bigger than themselves and a sense of belonging that stands the test of time. We now have a vibrant old boys Foundation which I urge all to sign up to (non-old boys included), it includes a digital copy of every school year magazine dating back decades.

Later in September I am fortunate enough to be travelling with a Marist contingent of schools and clergy to Rome and Vatican City, and then to Lyon France, where Marcellin Champagnat began his mission. This is a unique opportunity and something that as a leader of a Marist school I have always wanted to do.

God Bless

In the spirit of Saint John.

**Mr Shane Tong**  
**Principal**

“

We recently hosted a 40th reunion of the 1st XV team from 1985 ...

”



*A team of not so young old boys*

# From the Director of Catholic Character

Tena koutou katoa,

In the way of Mary....

As a vibrant Marist community of learners, we follow six key principles of the Marist Brothers known as pillars. One of these principles/pillars is 'In the Way of Mary.'

The story of Mary's life is primarily found in Luke's Gospel and for this reason Luke's Gospel is often called 'Mary's Gospel'. Mary enters salvation history when she says 'yes' to be the mother of Jesus. A very young woman betrothed to Joseph, she is pregnant by the Holy Spirit and visits her cousin Elizabeth who in her 'old age' is also pregnant with John the Baptist who in his adult life baptises Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Mary and Joseph are married and raise Jesus. There is very little information about the childhood of Jesus and therefore Mary and Joseph except for the story of Jesus being lost in the temple when he was 12 years old.

Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana was at Mary's insistence. Mary is a disciple of Jesus and is present and is in anguish at the foot of the Cross when Jesus dies.

The last scriptural evidence of Mary is that she is present at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Both Christian and Islamic traditions hold Mary up as a person close to God and therefore a model to follow. Christian tradition from the very early church holds that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was taken up into Heaven 'body and Soul.' This was proclaimed as a 'Dogma' of the Catholic Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. Mary is not worshipped for only God is worshipped but she is venerated as the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus.

Marcellin Champagnat - Saint Marcellin Champagnat, a Marist Priest, dreamed of a worldwide community of brothers wholeheartedly devoted to Mary and to make Jesus Christ known and loved among children and young people, especially the least favored. He embraced God's call to found the Marist brothers, the religious congregation that continues to pursue his dream today. When seeing children and young people without schooling and knowledge of their faith, Marcellin would say, "We need brothers!" On January 2, 1817 he set in motion his plan for the Congregation of "the little brothers of Mary" with two young recruits.

Mary in New Zealand. At the first mass in New Zealand in 1838, New Zealand was dedicated to Mary as 'Our Lady Assumed into Heaven' by Bishop Pompallier. The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15th August) is a major feast for Catholics worldwide and in New Zealand. So on Sunday 15th August 2021, the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand renewed our country's dedication to Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven, at St Mary of the Angels Church in Wellington by installing a National Shrine to Mary. This shrine is an artwork and is called Ko Hāta Maria, te Matua Wahine o te Atua (Holy Mary, Mother of God).

Mary Mother the Church..... Pray for us

God bless

**Mr Brian Belczacki**  
**Director of Catholic Character**



“

**At the first mass in New Zealand in 1838, New Zealand was dedicated to Mary as 'Our Lady Assumed into Heaven' by Bishop Pompallier.**

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## Key Dates 2025

### Term 4

6 October	Term 4 begins
9 October	Arts Awards Evening
16 October	Senior Sports Awards Evening
27 October	Public Holiday (Labour Day)
28 October	Leavers Dinner
30 October	Closing Mass and Senior Prizegiving
4-28 November	NZQA Exams
2-5 December	Y9 Activities Week and Y10 Camps
9 December	Junior Prizegiving and end of school year

## Key Dates 2026

### Term 1

27 January	Teachers' Only Day
28 January	Y9 Orientation Y13 Leadership Day
29 January	Y9 Orientation All Y13 students (P1 & P2, course confirmation)
30 January	All students

### Term 2

21 April	Term 2 begins
3 July	Term 2 ends

### Term 4

21 July	Term 3 begins
25 September	Term 3 ends

### Term 4

12 October	Term 4 begins
11 December	Term 4 ends

## Wise words for senior students

The end of Term 3 always provides an opportunity for our senior students to take a step back and reflect on where they are with their studies. The derived grade exams sat during senior assessment week will generate a whole range of emotions for our students. Some will be very pleased with their results, affirming the organised approach to revision they had in place alongside a proactive approach, asking for help and guidance when they needed it. For many, the emotions will be mixed, some good results, some not. If this is you, keep positive, you need to remember that the key learning point for the exams is ascertaining what you don't know - not what you do know. For everyone, the exams should provide some clarity on what you do and what you don't know. The key to success is how you use this information moving forward. Once you have your results, you need to go through each standard and identify the key areas that you are still unsure of and focus revision around developing your understanding and knowledge in these areas. Far too often young men will focus on revising the content that they do know, and are confident with because it makes you feel good. Effective revision in term 4 is structured, focused and puts you under pressure to test your knowledge by sitting past papers under timed conditions.

Term 4 is a real balancing act - maybe having to finish off a few internals at the start of the term, juggling this with external exam preparation and the busy lives that you lead outside of school. Keep focused, use the revision planner templates that have been given to you, make a plan and stick to it. Regardless of whether you have already passed, gained your endorsement or secured that spot at uni, you owe it to yourself to work hard and see things through until the end. Your November exams are not optional, they are the final piece of your NCEA study for this year, they reflect you and your true character. So, I ask that you become the best version of yourself and to put 110% effort into your remaining studies. Make the most of the opportunities presented to you, attend the tutorials, ask the questions, get the answers - Term 4 will go very quickly indeed.

**Dominic Tester**  
**Deputy Principal (Curriculum)**

## Student led toiletries drive for charities

At St John's College we are all about giving back, a core value instilled into us through our Marist culture. In the past few years we have focused on whatever the community needed the most, from blankets to food and health supplies, with this year's focus being toiletries. We believe these essentials are sometimes taken for granted and should be accessible for all those in need. To achieve this, we teamed up with three fantastic charities, Te Whare Korowai, Young Vinnies and Orange Sky, who do great work within the local community.

Our goal of 100kgs in toiletries was obviously very ambitious, but showed our trust in the school to come through for those in need. In the end we collected 102.3kg of toiletries, a wonderful effort by the school. On behalf of the leadership team and charities I would like to thank all of those who contributed, it really does make a difference.

**Angus Spelman, Blake Pitchford and Louie Peart-Baillie**  
**2025 Student Leaders**





## All Blacks inspire the next generation

St John's College had the incredible honour of hosting three current All Blacks - Cam Roigard, Emoni Narawa, and Christian Lio-Willie - in the first week of term 3, thanks to the support of Ebbett Toyota and Sport Waikato. The visit was a memorable experience for students and staff alike, offering a rare opportunity to connect with some of New Zealand's top rugby talent.

The morning kicked off with a skills session focused on our Under-14 rugby players. With the guidance of the All Blacks and support from members of the school's 1st XV squad, the students rotated through various stations aimed at developing fundamental rugby skills. From passing and catching to scanning the field and making smart decisions under pressure, the young players were challenged to improve the basics—something the All Blacks emphasized as essential, even at the elite level.

Our 1st XV leaders played an important role in facilitating these drills and were equally excited to be part of the experience. Rubbing shoulders with world-class athletes gave them not only valuable technical insights but also a firsthand look at the mindset and work ethic required to succeed at the highest levels of the sport.

What stood out most during the morning was the humility and generosity shown by Cam, Emoni, and Christian. They took the time to engage meaningfully with students, offering personal advice, encouragement, and even a few laughs. For our "Johnny's Boys," it was more than just a training session—it was a moment of inspiration.

After the on-field activities wrapped up, the students gathered for a Q&A session with the All Blacks. The conversation ranged from serious to light-hearted, with questions like "how do the All Blacks welcome a new person into the team?", "what are your plans after rugby?", and "what do you enjoy doing in your free time?" The players answered with honesty and warmth, giving students a deeper insight into life as a professional athlete beyond the field.

To finish the morning on a high note, students had the chance to get autographs, snap photos, and enjoy some informal chats with the players. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere made the whole experience unforgettable.

This visit was especially meaningful in the lead-up to the All Blacks' upcoming test match against France. For our U14s and 1st XV players, it was a chance to not only learn from the best but to be inspired by their humility, professionalism, and passion for the game.

St John's College would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Ebbett Toyota, Sport Waikato, and the All Blacks organisation for making this special day possible. It was a true highlight of the school year and one that will be remembered by all involved.

**Mr Tony Su'a**  
1st XV Coach



## The Future of Accounting

The annual Future of Accounting event took place in mid August and was attended by both Paea Veituna and Arnie David. The students listened to where the direction of accounting was going, the impact AI was having and expected to make and they also had the chance to network and speak to industry experts to see if this is the path they want to take when they leave school. There were a number of interesting speakers from the University of Waikato and the private sector who spoke on a range of experiences with accounting with a particularly interesting account from a speaker who was a forensic accountant with the NZ Police who investigated criminals through accounting to try and prosecute them. The boys left feeling more informed on the industry, what working in it looks like and with an idea of where they may want to work in the future.

**Mr Anthony Lander**  
TIC Accounting



## UNWANTED UNIFORMS

Please donate unwanted uniforms to the College's Student Services office for 2nd hand sales



All proceeds support student welfare



## Third place for Y10 Waimath competitors

Y10 Waikato contestants Aodhan O'Toole, Ezra Arnephy and Jeidrick Jarata gained third place in the Waimath Competition at Hamilton Boys High School in August.

Y9 contestants Cameron Devaney, Rafel Drent and Zach McLauchlan-Hillary and Y11 contestants Luke Mateo, Mikaere Cull and Nathan McIntyre also did well.

It was a rather challenging quiz night but this term's training and hard work has paid off. Well done St John's College boys! The most important thing is participation, having fun and being yourself.

**Mr Jiyang Shi (Jackie)**  
**School WaiMaths Coordinator / Coach**



## Chanel Shield hosts ... and winners!

St John's College had the privilege of hosting the annual Chanel Shield competition this year, the first time since 2019. We had a team of more than 30 staff and 50 students hosting the secondary schools within our Hamilton Diocese during the first weekend of August. We are grateful for the service of these staff and young men, and sincerely thank everyone who worked to make this event a success.

Campion College, Sacred Heart Girls College, Aquinas College, John Paul College, and St John's College competed with pride and faith in a range of speaking and presenting events. You will find a list of events and the St John's placings below.



The team of 15 should be proud of their efforts; scoring enough points to take out the competition and bring home the shield.

A massive congratulations to all our competitors.

Event	Participant	Placing
Junior Bible Reading	Ezra Arnephy	3rd
Senior Bible Reading	Joseph Pagua	2nd
Junior Prepared Speech	Aodhan O'Toole	2nd
Senior Oratory	Euan Casimiro	1st
Impromptu Speech	Alec Fraser-Jones	2nd
Junior Poetry	Sakith Samaratunga	3rd
Senior Poetry	Yeonjoon Kim	4th
Māori Perspective Speech	Alex Johnston	4th
Dramatic Presentation	Alex Johnston, Monty Carter, Yeonjoon Kim, Will Riley, William Carter, Rhyver Sharp-Beckett	2nd
Debating	Aidan Butler, Nate Rastick, Thomas Healy	1st
Religious Knowledge Quiz	Whole team	3rd





## Annual business studies market day

The young men taking part in Year 10 Business studies this year hosted the St John's College annual business studies market day at the end of term two. They had to come up with their own product, research it, market it and put their talents on the line to try and sell it, all in aid of trying to understand how to be entrepreneurs.

They had spent the term working on this and the calibre of vendors was very high this year, selling all sorts of various goodies from brownie kits, perfume and jams, to the amazing freeze dried ice cream. The stalls were

some of the most well presented Mr Healy and I had seen in a number of years, the products themselves were of a high quality and flew off the tables. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience with many learning some important life lessons about themselves and their group members along the way. Some have embraced the entrepreneur spirit and we look forward to seeing what these students may offer in the years to come.

**Mr Anthony Lander**  
Year 10 Business Studies Teacher



## Congratulations Sakith on Waikato Science Fair win

This year, St. John's College had entries in the Waikato science Fair Y9-10 planet earth and beyond investigations and the biological drawing competition.

Sakith Samaratunga, Year 9, entered the Y9-10 planet earth and beyond, with his investigation, "The River's Report Card". He worked diligently through terms one and two, with Mrs Fairweather as his support teacher, to produce a fantastic project. He placed first in this class, earning himself \$100! Well done, Sakith.

We had three students enter the biological drawing category, where the theme was parts of a bird. A highly skilled project, where no shading is allowed, only lots of tiny little dots! The calibre was very high, but these students made a valiant effort with the support of Mrs Greenwood. Well done, Joe Tubridy, Sanalio Palusa and John Alcantra.

We look forward to next year.

**Mrs Harriet Reed-Hadley**  
Chemistry and General Science  
Teacher





## Squash team retains place in Division Two

Our school squash team - Luis Frost, Lennox Priscott, Ben Sole, Cameron Devaney, and Kees van der Hulst - travelled to Wellington to compete in the National Secondary Schools Squash Championships in late July. This year, the team was a composite side, joined by a player from Hillcrest High School. This was the first time that National Secondary Schools have allowed composite teams.

The main goal was clear: stay in Division Two - and they did just that, showing determination, skill, and plenty of promise for the future.

The boys got off to a confident start on Friday morning, defeating Te Paepae from Taranaki. That evening's match was a nail-biter against St Andrew's College, ending in a narrow 3-2 loss. On Saturday morning they faced Marlborough Boys' College, again being edged out in another close 3-2 battle.

Determined to bounce back, the team showed real grit on Saturday evening to defeat Christ's College, before saving their best for last in the final match against Heretaunga College, which they won 3-2. In total, they came away with three wins from five matches, securing their place for another year.

Most of the squad are only Year 9 or 10, making their performance even more impressive. With more experience and training, they are looking forward to building on this result and coming back even stronger in the future.

The team would like to give a special thanks to Liz Owen for her invaluable help throughout the trip, and to Red Kitchen for generously sponsoring the food - keeping the players fuelled and ready to compete.

Next year the tournament heads to the South Island, to Christchurch - so we will be undertaking lots of fundraising in the coming year!



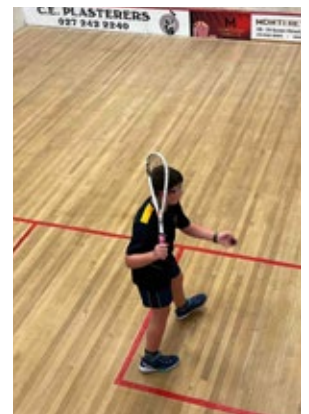
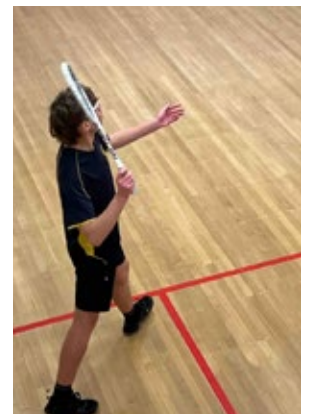
## Ms Helen Chileshe TIC Squash



## Creativity abounds in Year 10 social studies

Mrs Healy's Year 10 social studies class were tasked with creating a cartoon about how a particular animal in the Amazon rainforest got a particular feature. Enjoy reading John Alcantara's cartoon on How the parrot got it's voice.

*Full-sized cartoon on back cover.*





## Thrilling end to the season for Waikato B grade winners!

What a fantastic season for our 1st XI Hockey team! Our talented team kicked off the year with a series of commanding victories, setting the tone for what was sure to be a special season. While we faced some tough challenges towards the end of the season, the team showed incredible resilience and determination to make it to the finals.

The final match was a nail-biter, a true testament to the skill and grit of both teams. The score remained locked at 0-0 through most of the game, with both sides refusing to budge. Then, in the final quarter of the last half, the moment we had all been waiting for arrived. DJ Vrensen found the back of the net, scoring the winning goal that secured the Waikato B Grade title for our school!

We'd like to extend a massive thank you to our dedicated manager and coaches who guided the team to victory: Coach Stu McIntyre, Manager Mervyn Fernandes, and Assistant Coach Luke Hoskin. Your hard work and commitment made this incredible achievement possible.

**Mr Leon Teao**  
**TIC Hockey**

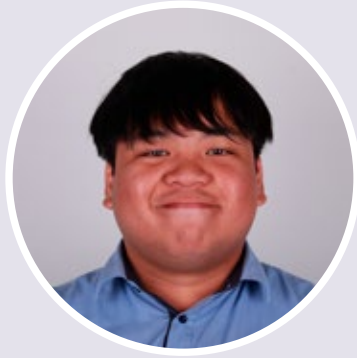


## Under 14 rugby team win Waikato Division 1 grade

Under 14's have had a great season, coming together from six different rugby clubs to unite under the St John's banner. The boys brought into our new culture, with hard work and a positive attitude. The season started shaky with a loss in the second game but from that point on we just got better finishing the rest of season unbeaten, amassing 231 points and only conceding 53 points.

We took out the season with a big win against Tokoroa winning 25-5. Best of all, the boys are hungry to come back next year!





### Check out Euan's winning Chanel Shield speech

If you are interested in one of St John's College's extraordinary public speakers, take this link to Euan Casimiro's winning Chanel Shield speech. He has tackled the hard issue of God's Grace and its connection to Hell as we know it. Euan is a remarkable academic, performer, and speaker. He takes every opportunity to serve the community of St John's and we are all proud of his dedication to faith.



### Programming team win Waikato Secondary school division

Six of our students represented the school in the annual New Zealand Programming Competition, held at Waikato University and other venues across the country in August.

We entered two teams of three students:

- Team One - Benedict Doohan, Torben Smith, and Nemo Wen
- Team Two - Dylan Roche, Cameron Williams, and Yeonjoo Kim

The competition was a test of skill, strategy, and teamwork. Teams had an hour-long practice round to familiarise themselves with the format before five hours of intense problem solving. Each problem carried a different points value, meaning that smart time management and task selection were just as important as coding ability. To add to the challenge, each team had to share a single computer, rotating between coding, planning, and troubleshooting together.

Our students rose to the occasion, thinking strategically and pushing through the frustrations of juggling different coding languages and limited equipment.

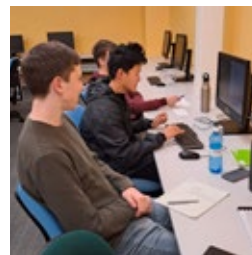
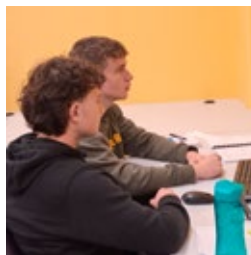
- Team One placed 1st in the Waikato Secondary Schools division.
- Team Two placed 3rd in the same division.

Against tough competition nationwide, both teams finished mid-table—an excellent achievement for our school. More importantly, they gained valuable experience and insight into high-level problem-solving, teamwork under pressure, and competitive programming strategies.

These same students have been a part of a wider group who have been taking part in the New Zealand Olympiad competition. This is a similar format competition with three rounds run at different times of the year. It is excellent preparation for the Scholarship examination at the end of the year, as well as being a way to showcase what they have learned this year. The final round is this coming weekend.

The students are excited to build on these results next year, aiming to climb even higher in the national rankings. Congratulations to all six competitors for their fantastic effort and representing the school so well.

**Ms Helen Chileshe**  
ICT Teacher



### SACRED HEART GIRLS' COLLEGE ALUMNAE EVENT

Join us for afternoon tea, tales with Kerre Woodham and a tour of familiar and new spaces. We look forward to bringing alumnae and our school community together on this special occasion.

Saturday 21st February 2026  
2pm - 5pm  
At Sacred Heart Girls' College

Early Bird Tickets:  
Single Ticket \$70  
Sisters of Sacred Heart Package (x2 tickets) \$125



TICKETS ON SALE



# Garden PARTY

Better Together

For more information visit:  
shgcham.school.nz



## Celebrating successes in our Music Department

Terms 2 and 3 have been busy for our Music groups. Congratulations to the Wingmen for their performances at the Big Sing in Tauranga at the end of Term 2. You sang beautifully and it was a wonderful day.

Our Barbershop Quartet, Flyguyz won their regional category and are heading down to compete in Wellington in Week 10. We wish them well with their performances. Special thanks to Malcolm Barr.

In Week 6, Term 3, four of our school music groups performed at the annual Itinerant Music Festival. Gat Attack won a Gold Award and an Adjudicators award.

**Irish Ceilidh Group: Gold Award and Adjudicators Award for guitars**  
**Jazz Combo: Silver Award**  
**SJC/SHGC Concert Band: Silver Award**

Special thanks to our wonderful Itinerant teachers for the amazing work they do for our boys at St John's College. Nathan Aish, Chris Nation, Stephen Morton-Jones, Glenn Richards, Adrian Hayward and Jayne Tankersley.

In Week 6 and 7 we also had two performances at Marian Primary with Gat Attack, The Wingmen Choir and Barbershop Quartet. A great opportunity to play for our community.

We also celebrate Larin Garbriel Caingal who is a finalist for the Play it Strange songwriting competition and he will be recording his own original song, set to be released on Spotify in October.

**Mrs Donna McHugh**  
**TIC Music**



## 2025 Lego Masters House Competition

This year's Lego Masters house competition was a hotly contested event. Teams of five were challenged to build something that we do NOT have at St John's College, that they would love us to have at school.

Creativity was on display as teams created a pool, a games room and a statue of Mr Tester - all excellent additions to our school! However, the competition was taken out by Pompallier with their very impressive obstacle course, complete with moving parts.

The judge, Mr Dom "The Brickman" Tester, was on the lookout for three key criteria:

- creativity and originality
- storytelling and functionality
- construction quality and detail

A big crowd of staff and students came to admire the engineering skills of the builders.

Many thanks to each participant, to Mr Tester and to the Media Team for the photos.

Congratulations to Pompallier House, Lego Masters Champions 2025!

**Mrs Lynley Keightley**  
**School Librarian**





## Year 11 Maatangi Whenua (Geography Quiz) Waikato Winners!

This year, with trepidation, six brave young men headed off to Waikato Dio for the annual Year 11 geography quiz. St John's competes in this quiz every year, with varying degrees of success. The competition tests the teams from around the Waikato on a variety of geography based activities, with obviously, because it is geography, some involving play dough. This year, Mrs Lawson and I had high hopes for the teams, and they were justified, with the teams coming away with first and second place - an amazing effort. Congratulations to Luke Mateo, Matt Scimgeour and Will Loft, who also got special mention for getting 100% in one of the rounds. Special mention also needs to go to our other team, Luke Phillipps, Lucas Owsley, and Jaxon Chase who came in second. Unfortunately, only the winning team gets to go to Nationals.

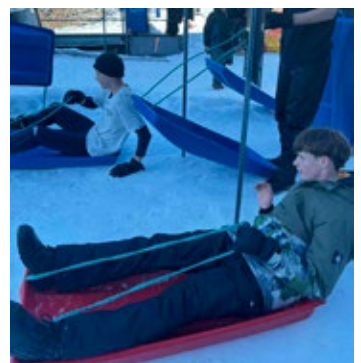
**Mrs Bossenger**  
**TIC Geography**

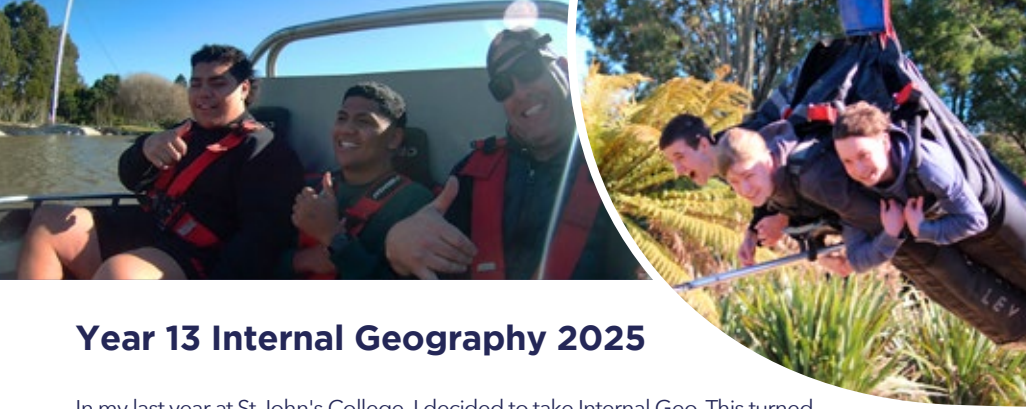


## Year 12 Geography students explore Tongariro National Park

For 2025's Year 12 Geography trip, we went to Tongariro National Park. During our stay, we surveyed four different locations based on the four cardinal directions around the National Park. Our task was to analyse the different types of vegetation, density, tree heights, temperature, elevation, and windspeed of the areas we surveyed. Surveying these locations would help us in our assessments as we were able to gather the information we needed to explain the differences of each side of the National Park, and why it was that way. When we weren't surveying areas, we were able to partake in lots of activities, such as tobogganing, swimming in the hot pools, and going up on the Sky Waka gondola. We were even able to experience snow on Mt Ruapehu! We stayed at the base of Mt Ruapehu, in Whakapapa Village. The weather was phenomenal, and this made it an amazing opportunity throughout the trip, to have great views of the Mountains and chances to stargaze at night.

**Mrs Bossenger**  
**TIC Geography**





## Year 13 Internal Geography 2025

In my last year at St John's College, I decided to take Internal Geo. This turned out to be one of my better decisions this year. Internal Geo is by far my favourite class as it has allowed me to get my University Entrance that I required and has helped me to grow as a student. At the start of the year we went to Port Waikato to measure the effects erosion has on the beach. We had to work in groups of four which taught me perseverance when someone forgot to start the timer, so we had to restart. Our most recent trip was studying Crankworx in Rotorua. On this trip we did multiple activities but my favourite by far was the Swoop, seeing Mrs Bossenger ball her eyes out before the drop was a top three for me, after how many times I was put in class facing the wall. All jokes aside, Internal Geo is definitely one of the best subjects at St John's College.

**Ben Parnwell**  
Year 13 student



## Rotorua Geography Trip - Tourism Development

On the 24th and 25th of July, the whole geography cohort was fortunate enough to travel to Rotorua to learn about tourism development. Trust me, lads, when I say this will be one of the best experiences you'll ever have.

Being amongst 70 other students for an overnight trip brought adrenaline and excitement.

The first day we were able to learn about the tourism. We were able to experience other international tourists from England, China, and more, as well as the geysers and mud pools. Experiencing the zorb, Crankworx for our internal classes, and the historical events of the destruction of the Pink and White terraces, Maori settlement, and First International tourism development.

The best experience was definitely the night markets and Polynesian spas, where we met new people and mingled. The second day we went to the skylines, and rode down the luge, where I was flipped off the track. We also went to Velocity Valley and experienced so many new activities, including Swoosh, the jet ride, and free flying.

Overall, the trip was worth the excitement, fun activities, and learning about tourist development. Geography makes my life so much more enjoyable because the course and teachers make it feel like a wonderland.

This is why geography would be good for you, also the teachers are very delightful and make your class lessons so much fun!!!

**Isaleli Pati**  
Deputy Head Student



## What is L3 External Geography about?

In my final year at St John's, I've had the privilege of being in the Level 3 external geography class. This has led me and my classmates to have the opportunity of learning about an array of different subjects. These subjects are not just simply learning about flags or knowing the capital city of each country, but they are relevant and important subjects that play a big role in today's world. Not only are these subjects interesting, but they also provide us with vital skills such as critical thinking and insight into how the world works. Subjects that have provided us with this include research into child trafficking throughout the world, coastal erosion in our local communities, research into the way in which a local event works, and finally, the process of tourism in New Zealand.

**Louis Windleborn**  
Year 13 student

## Year 9 Social Studies

This term the Year 9s have been hard at work learning about different types of government. Using 'Sour Patch Kids' students were required to create a model demonstrating each of the main types of governments we have, obviously, the best part was eating them afterwards! They are now moving on to mock elections, coming up with their own policies to hopefully win the class election. Ask your child how their election went.

**Mrs Bossenger**  
TIC Geography





## Scuba trip to Vanuatu

While many students were winding down towards the end of term two, a group of 11 keen divers (10 students and one teacher) and two parents embarked on an adventure of a lifetime to Santo Island, Vanuatu, to Scuba Dive. The trip had been 18 months in the making and was well timed with the temperature in New Zealand plummeting to single figures before departure. Heading abroad to warmer weather felt perfect.

The group flew to Port Vila then caught a connecting flight to Santos Island to dive in the warmer waters in the Second Channel while experiencing the culture the country provides. The group completed eight dives in 27 degree water with regularly 20m plus visibility. These included diving the SS President Coolidge - Cargo Holds 1, 2, 3 & 4, visiting The Lady, an orientation of the Promenade Deck & Barber's Chair, Million Dollar Point, the USS Tucker, an unidentified WWII spy-plane the Dauntless Bomber, and The Fans (Eastern Aore Wall) which ended up being a drift dive. While diving the various sites the group saw World War II relics. At Million Dollar Point, it was covered with sharp, rusty shrapnel and grotesque chunks of industrial machinery, trucks, cranes, and bulldozers all beneath the water. The shoreline is littered with broken coke bottles and coral. Meanwhile, an hour up the road to Champagne Beach the sand is fine and pristine white with turquoise water making it inviting for everyone.

While in Luganville, we visited our sister school, St Michel Technical College, where we were given a guided tour of the school and its facilities by Brother John Murray and Principal Theo Kili. We then handed over \$2500 worth of sporting equipment to the school. The tour group interacted with the staff and students before heading back to the accommodation.

Thank you to PADI for providing the t-shirts and mask strap covers, Beuchat for the bucket hats and caps, Soccer United for their generosity providing footballs, training equipment, merchandise, training shirts, socks and boots for St Michel School. A truly amazing trip with rich learning experiences and lifetime memories for all.

### Mr Hayden TIC Scuba Club



## 12APE students coach at Marian

Every Monday during term three, Mr Miller took his 12APE class to Marian Catholic School to coach the Year 5 & 6s. The cohort were divided up into seven groups coached in either Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey or Rugby. This initiative was brought about to provide the 12APE students opportunities to show leadership for one of their internal achievement standards. Coaching in pairs, the St John's College students quickly developed their own rules, routines and go to activities to engage the Marian students. Throughout the six weeks many of the Marian students improved their skills, gained a better understanding of a sport, and developed some game sense. At the conclusion of the 6-week block, a mini tournament was held where the winning team received prizes.

### Mr Hayden Miller Assistant HOF PE and Health



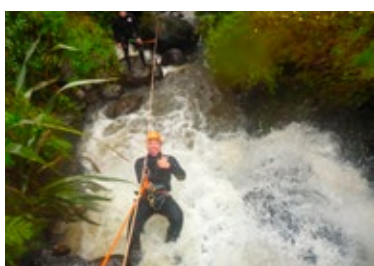
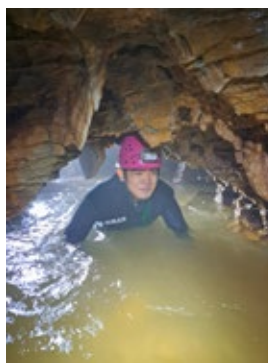
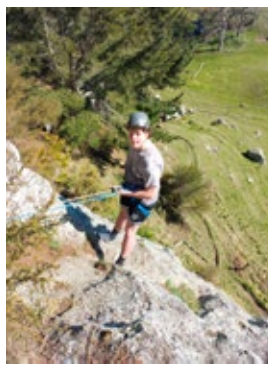


## Outdoor Education adventures continue

Since the last report, the Year 11 and year 12 Outdoor classes have been very busy getting out and active in the Outdoors. The year 11 students have been caving in the Hagas Honking Holes, with the team at Waitomo Adventures. During this time they were learning about being Kaitiakitanga and the effects we as people have on the environment, and steps we can take to minimise those effects. They have also been Rock Climbing at Wharepapa South, aka Castle Rock and at the Rock Garden in Karamu, with the team at Raglan Rock. Here they learnt about Whanaungatanga, in how building strong trusting relationships and helping each other is an important factor in risk management and keeping each other safe.

The Year 12 students have been canyoning with the Raglan Rock team and learning about the effect the weather can have on planning outdoor adventures and activities. They have been in Rock n Ropes in Taupo to demonstrate safe practices for themselves and others. They have been on their first mountain bike trip which was at Te Miro MTB park. They will have another at Raglan's Te Ara Kakariki MTB park and lastly at Whakarewarewa Forest in Rotorua. This is not only to work on their practical riding skill, but also to learn about planning and preparing a group outdoor activity, including creating gear lists, meal plans, weather, identifying and minimising hazards and describing why the location is suitable for the group. They will also have to carry out basic pre-ride safety checks and basic bike repairs.

**Mr Kyle Jackways**  
**TIC Outdoor Education**



## Exceptional leadership in Physical Education recognised

Matua Jacob Kelly was presented with the Tane Pepeke Award at the 2025 Physical Education New Zealand (PENZ) conference in Queenstown during the July school holidays.

Heemi McDonald, managing director of PENZ said "This award recognises individuals or groups who embody and promote excellence in physical education through te ao Māori, igniting knowledge and inspiration within their communities. Jacob's achievement is a credit to both his individual efforts and the environment of excellence fostered within your school community".

Our Head of PE Faculty, Jason Robinson, and Nicola Ratima (Ngāti Raukawa), Year 12 Dean at Waikato Diocesan School for Girls and Physical Education Board Member presented Jake with his award.





THE RAINFOREST WAS QUIET, TOO QUIET



EVERY ANIMAL WAS AFRAID OF BEING HEARD, OF BEING WRONG.

THE PARROT WAS ONCE A PALE, SILENT BIRD WITH GREY FEATHERS AND A HEART FULL OF WORDS THAT IT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO SHAKE.



ONE DAY THE PARROT HEARD A CHILD CRYING UNDER A TREE - LOST, ALONE, SCARED



THE PARROT OPENED ITS BEAK FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SAID...

YOU'RE OKAY  
YOU'RE SAFE



THE RAINFOREST PAUSED, THE WIND HELD ITS BREATH.



AND JUST LIKE THAT, COLOR BLOOMED ACROSS THE GREY BIRD - EVERY WORD IT LEARNED PAINTED IT BRIGHTER.



SINCE THEN, PARROTS CARRY VOICES OF JOY, MEMORIES AND COMFORT THEIR VOICE ECHOS THROUGH THE FOREST



SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS ONE VOICE TO MAKE ANYWHERE HOME

## HOW THE PARROT GOT IT'S VOICE

Cartoon by John Alcantara  
Please see page 8 for further details.