



Historic 1st XI cricket team celebrates success

11

Welcoming new staff

06



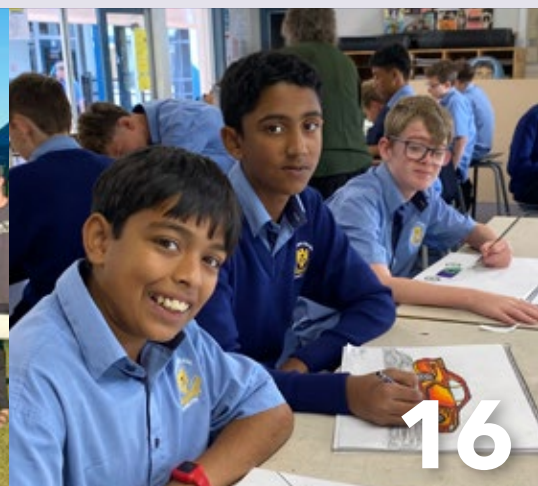
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Field trips around the Waikato



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Taking flight: The Eagle's path to Maadi



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Technology students in action



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents

It has been a good start to the year with several traditions setting the tone for the College, beginning with our poowhiri for our new Year 9 Marist Men. The poowhiri was very well attended by whaanau, so much so that we had to bring the boys forward and sit them on the ground in front of all the parents. It is encouraging that parents feel comfortable to come on site and join in on this important milestone in their son's life.

The New Zealand government has set a "2030 Goal" to have 80% of students attending school regularly (more than 90% of the time). To reach this, new "Stepped Attendance Response" (STAR) plans will become mandatory for all schools this year. This involves earlier intervention when a student misses 5, 10, or 15 days of school which we welcome. Unfortunately we have been given no extra resources to achieve this.

Attendance has always been a factor that schools have monitored, however the Ministry of Education is, rightly, increasingly concerned about New Zealand's attendance rates and the results are sobering reading. New Zealand lags behind the USA, the UK and Australia at an average of 57% for secondary school students for 2025 (attending 90% or more of the time). Any of you who are employers would be less than happy with someone who took this much time off work. You might think that at Saint John's our attendance is likely much higher, and it is, but at 74% this still means on average 26% of our boys are absent at least one day a fortnight or more. Needless to say, attendance and academic achievement, or lack thereof, go hand in hand. The Ministry is putting pressure on schools to lift attendance and while this is naturally a desirable outcome it is really up to schools to get children to school in the mornings?

On a more positive note we are increasingly seeing old boys from all eras reconnecting with Saint John's whether that is through the foundation website, through email, or in person when they drop by. We are always pleased when old boys drop by to update us on how their life is evolving or to fill us in on snippets of our history which is not in our archives, it is well worth signing up to the old boys foundation website to keep up with the news, every year book from 1961 has been scanned and is freely available.

I have enjoyed reconnecting with many of you through sport this term and have been watching the school production take shape. It looks - and sounds - like it will be outstanding. Thank you to all staff and parents who put countless hours into helping our young men express themselves outside the classroom, through sport, culture and the arts.

With the new curriculum changes already in Year 9 and 10 English and Maths this year, and much more to come in 2027, we must stay focussed on what we know is effective. What has always worked is providing a loving, settled and safe environment for our young men to learn and thrive whilst challenging them to be the best version of themselves. The rest becomes easier.

God Bless

Mr Shane Tong
Principal

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The New Zealand government has set a "2030 Goal" to have 80% of students attending school regularly (more than 90% of the time).

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From the Director of Catholic Character

Tena koutou katoa,

Welcome back to the school year and into the Lenten season.

Our Special Character team is very much underway and is being enthusiastically led by Joseph Paguia and Asher Nasire. As well as organising house masses, they have already organised bi-weekly prayer (Rosary) in our chapel and a weekly bible study.

During this time of Lent in the church's year, we are reminded of two key Lenten symbols : Ash and the colour purple.

During our Ash Wednesday Liturgy each young man came before the ashes minister who said, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," as they made the sign of the cross on each forehead in ash. This tangible sign again reminds us of our dependence on God. Ash reminds us of our dependence on God for who we are, as we are made from 'the earth' (Gen 2:7). It is an ancient sign of repentance and of 'turning back to God' and there are many examples of the use of ash in various religious philosophies to turn away from ourselves and focus on God.

The church adopts the colour purple during two preparation periods in the church's year; Lent and Advent (the preparation time before Christmas). Dying fabric to a purple colour was a difficult and expensive exercise and so was reserved for the wealthy and kings. We are reminded that Jesus was mocked as 'The King of Jews' as a scarlet robe was placed around him (Matt 27:28). Purple is the colour of sorrow and mourning.

Pope Leo XIV's Key Themes in his Lenten Message are about :

- "Fasting from Words": Fast not just from food, but from hurtful speech, slander, and rash judgment. Use this time to cultivate kindness, respect, and peace in families, workplaces, and on social media.
- Transformation and Conversion: Lent presents us with a time to allow the Lord to cleanse and renew the heart, moving away from evil and toward God.
- Communal Dimension: Pope Leo emphasizes a shared journey of repentance, calling on parishes and families to listen to the "cry of the poor and of the earth".
- Prayer and Action: The season is defined by a return to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, which are described as tools that enrich and strengthen humanity rather than impoverish it.

We carry out these actions as we prepare our minds and hearts for that great season in the church's year, Easter!

God bless

Mr Brian Belczacki
Director of Catholic Character



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“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel,” as they made the sign of the cross on each forehead in ash.

”



Key Dates 2026

Term 2

20 April	Teachers' Only Day
21 April	Term 2 begins
27 April	ANZAC Day observed
21 May	Year 8 Information Evening
10 June	MC Day Mass
3 July	Term 2 ends

Term 3

20 July	Teachers' Only Day
21 July	Term 3 begins
22 July	Junior Parents Evening
12 August	Senior Parents Evening
25 September	Term 3 ends

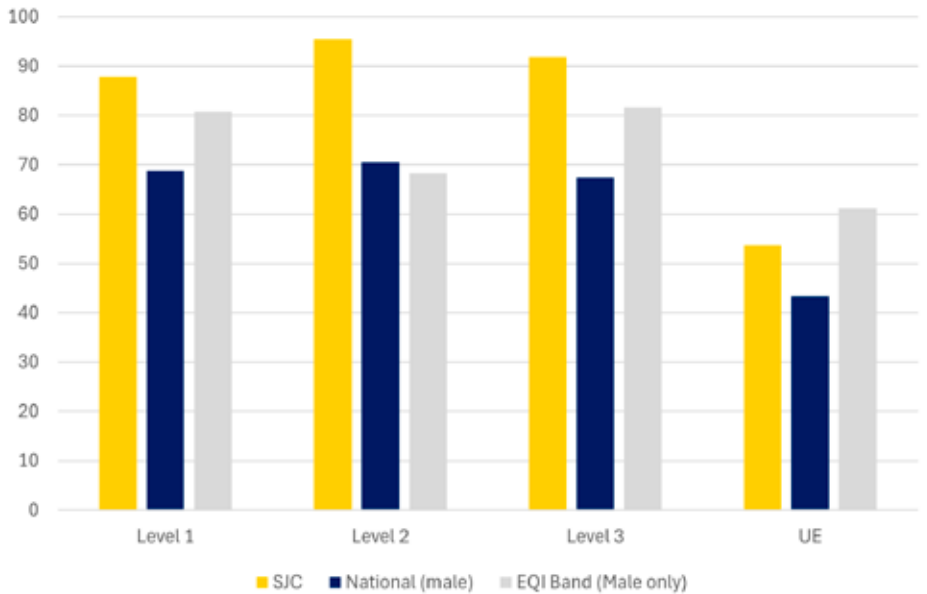
Term 4

12 October	Term 4 begins
11 December	Term 4 ends

NCEA report card for 2025

We are proud to share the exceptional academic results of our students for 2025. St John's College (SJC) continues to set a high standard, with pass rates significantly exceeding national male averages across all levels of the NCEA. Crucially, our students achieved near-universal NCEA co-requisites: 94.4% for Literacy (National Male: 75.7%) and 97.5% for Numeracy (National Male: 77.7%) at Level 1. These results reflect the dedication of our young men, staff, and SJC community. We continue to monitor these trends to support every student's pathway.

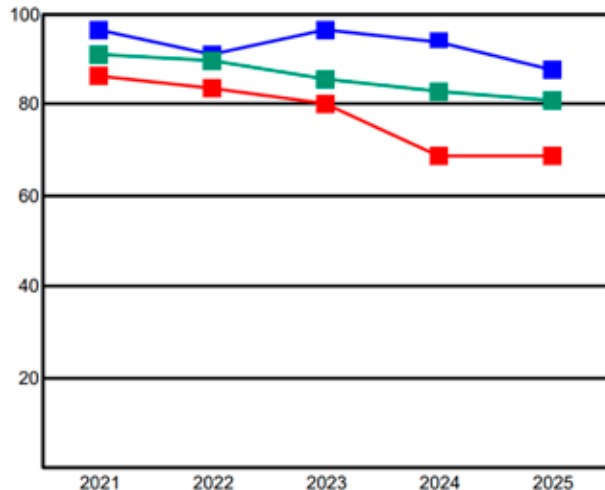
St John's College % NCEA Results 2025



NCEA Level 1

St John's College achieved exceptional NCEA Level 1 results in 2025 with an 87.8% pass rate, 19 percentage points above the national male rate (68.8%). Our students also excelled in endorsements, with 28.3% gaining Merit (higher than the 21.4% national male average) and a 7.5% Excellence rate, in line with the national average (7.6%). A significant strength is our Māori students' Level 1 achievement of 82.8%, which is over 25 percentage points higher than the national Māori average (57.6%) and exceeds our Equity Index Band target of 72.8%.

Year 11 NCEA Level 1 - Male





NCEA Level 2

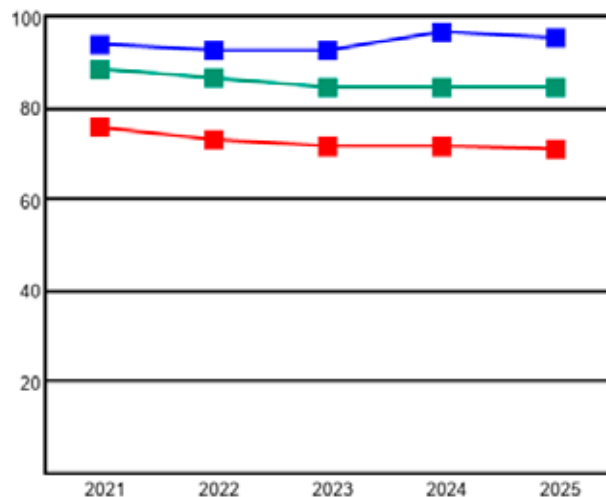
St John's College demonstrated exceptional academic performance in 2025, achieving a 95.4% NCEA Level 2 pass rate. This result is significantly higher than the national male average of 70.4% and surpasses the school's specific Equity Index Band average of 68.2% by 27 percentage points.

The success was particularly notable among Māori (88.9%) and Pasifika (90.9%) students, whose pass rates exceeded their respective national averages by over 23 and 27 percentage points.

In terms of achievement quality, the school's Merit endorsements (22.9%) were above the national male average of 20.5%. However, Excellence endorsements (10.6%) were slightly below the national male benchmark (11.2%) and the school's EQI target of 14.8%.

The school has shown significant long-term academic consistency, maintaining Level 2 pass rates above 92% since 2020.

Year 12 NCEA Level 2 - Male



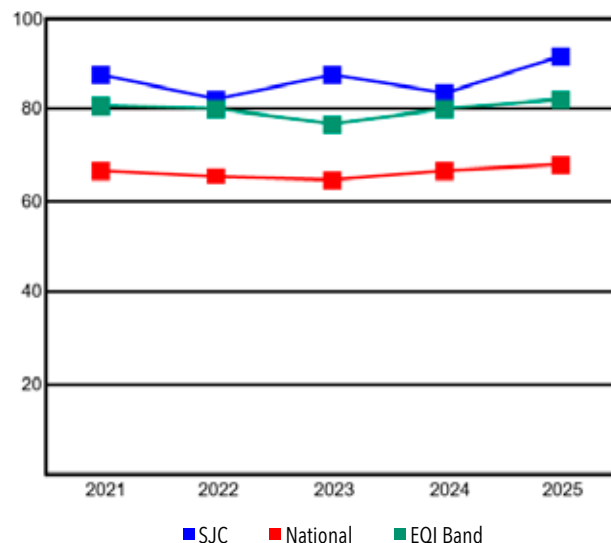
NCEA Level 3

Our 2025 Level 3 students achieved a remarkable 91.9% NCEA Level 3 pass rate in 2025, significantly outperforming the national male average of 67.4% and the school's EQI Band target of 81.6%. This is a significant improvement from last year (82.7%). Māori (88.0%) and Pasifika (80.0%) students also delivered exceptional results, exceeding their respective national averages by 26 and 14 percentage points.

While University Entrance (UE) attainment was 51.5%, the school's "True Result" for students specifically enrolled in a UE-approved pathway was 60%, nearly reaching the 61.2% equity target. In terms of quality, Excellence endorsements reached 10.4%, while Merit endorsements stood at 16.8%.

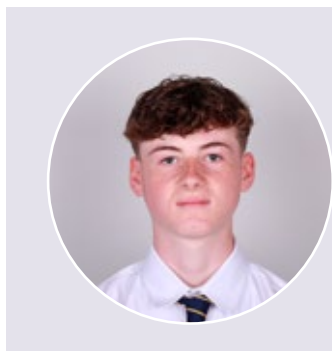
A standout area of growth is Pasifika STEM achievement, with 46.7% of students gaining at least one UE-approved STEM subject, up from just 15% in 2023.

Year 13 NCEA Level 3 - Male



Literacy and Numeracy results

We are very proud to announce that St John's College has maintained its position of having the highest pass rates of literacy and numeracy co-requisites (Year 11 students) across all schools in the Waikato region.



Scholarship

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students who gained scholarship last year. In particular, **Finn McDaid** who gained a scholarship in Accounting and an Outstanding scholarship in Economics.

Miss Jackie Smith
Deputy Principal



Science teacher is also high ranking Kendo practitioner

Mr Sam Tsai, one of our science teachers, has been selected to represent New Zealand at the Go-Gatsu Taiko, an annual tournament held in Japan in April for practitioners of the 6th to 8th Dan in various martial arts.

Sam is one of the highest-ranking Kendo practitioners in New Zealand and is a Renshi 6th Dan Kendo. He also runs his own Kendo club with his wife Marleen which has a good standing within the New Zealand kendo community.

We wish Sam all the very best with his tournament in April.



New staff from left to right: **Mrs Sophie Dixon, Mrs Angela Hay, Mr Todd Harper, Mrs Anne Mackey and Mrs Shirley Xu**
Absent: **Ms Nicole Hardy, Mr Steve Mitchell, Mrs Nicky Williams and Matua Brandyn Were**

Welcoming new staff

This year we welcomed two Assistant Principals to our Senior Leadership. Mr Paul Ardern was promoted from Head of Faculty English and Ms Nicole Hardy joined us from Fraser High School. Both our new Assistant Principals are teaching in English and Social Sciences respectively.

Congratulations to Ms Andrea Dela Rue who has been promoted to Head of Faculty English and Mr Connor Maxwell who has been promoted to 2IC English. Welcome Mrs Anne Mackey has joined the English teaching team.

Congratulations also to Mr John de Vega who has been promoted to Head of Faculty Religious Education (RE) and Mrs Michelle Sim who has been promoted to 2IC Religious Education. We also welcomed Steve Mitchell who joined the RE teaching team.

Mrs Angela Hay is our new Head of Faculty Science and is joined by Ms Sophie Dixon who is a new Biology teacher.

Mr Harnesh Prasad is the new 2IC for the Maths Faculty. Old Boy Matua Brandyn Were who's in first year teaching has joined the maths faculty.

We also welcome Ms Nicky Williams who is a new digital technology teacher, Mr Todd Harper who is the St John's College Foundation's new Fundraising and Events Co-ordinator and Shirley Xu who is a new Learning Assistant.



Senior Leadership Team from left to right: **Mr Paul Ardern, Ms Jackie Smith, Mr Shane Tong, Mr Dominic Kay and Ms Nicole Hardy**



International Welcome to Waikato

On Friday 6th March, Hamilton City Council and The University of Waikato hosted a vibrant Mayor's International Welcome event for the international students beginning their studies in the Waikato region.

More than 300 intermediate, secondary, and tertiary students gathered at The Pā for an afternoon filled with dynamic performances, inspiring speeches, and delicious food. Our international students from St John's College enjoyed the ceremony and had the opportunity to have a photo with our city Mayor, Tim Macindoe.

Our Kapa Haka team was invited to perform, led by Matua Jordan Rangihika and Matua Jacob Kelly.

Mr Edward Park
Director, International Students



Marist Schools Leaders connect in Christchurch

Earlier this term, our three Head Students spent four days in Christchurch alongside other Marist school student leaders from across the country.

The gathering provided an opportunity for students to connect with one another, deepen their understanding of the values and traditions that underpin Marist education, and explore what it means to lead through service. Yeonjoon (Head Student) shared that one of the highlights of the trip was learning about the different schools and how they support and mentor their younger students.

We would also like to acknowledge Daniel Dungey from Star of the Sea, Marist of Champagnat Province, for his dedication to our student leaders and the significant work he does in supporting Marist education.

Mr Paul Ardern
Assistant Principal





Wenzhou No.2 Senior High School Exchange Students Visit St John's College

We were delighted to host five exchange students from Wenzhou No.2 Senior High School for two weeks at St John's College. This visit marked the return leg of our exchange programme, following the memorable experience of our 12 boys who travelled to Wenzhou last year.

The students were accompanied by Mr Chen, the Principal, and Mrs Shen, a teacher from Wenzhou No.2 Senior High School. During their stay, the students lived with their buddies—boys who had participated in last year's exchange programme—and attended classes together. This provided a wonderful opportunity for them to experience school life in New Zealand while strengthening the friendships formed during the previous visit.

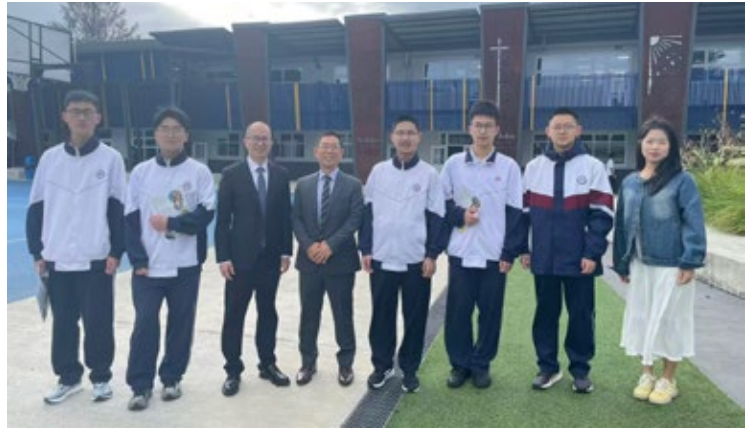
In addition to school activities, the group enjoyed exploring some of New Zealand's most iconic destinations. They travelled to Auckland, Rotorua, Hobbiton Movie Set, Waitomo Glowworm Caves, and Hamilton Gardens. These trips allowed them to experience New Zealand's natural beauty, culture, and famous landmarks.

The exchange was a meaningful and enriching experience for everyone involved. We are also pleased to share that Mr Chen has warmly invited us to participate in the 2027 exchange programme at Wenzhou No.2 Senior High School, supported by the Wenzhou Education Bureau. We look forward to continuing this valuable partnership and strengthening the bond between our two schools in the years to come.

Mr Edward Park
Director, International Students

In Brief

Enzo Leaman, Ethan FitzPatrick, Jack Rollitt, Jack Teague, Ramos Ratuki participated in the Waikato Mt Bike XC race at Te Miro on March 12th. This was the biggest entry St John's College has had in a number of years.





Athletics Sports Day 2026

We were fortunate to have excellent weather for this year's Athletics Sports Day on Thursday 26th February. High participation rates and a great soundtrack provided by Mr Park on the DJ decks kept energy levels high throughout the day.

To improve the experience for the students, we doubled the staffing for the long jump and cricket ball throw. This allowed us to run two jump pits simultaneously and effectively halved the wait times for the throwing events. A significant change to the program was the introduction of the House Mass Relay, which replaced the Country of Origin relay. In this new format, every member of the House crossed the field, with the final result determined by dividing the total time by the number of participants.

It was particularly encouraging to see the senior students mentoring the younger boys during this event. Our House and Sports Leaders deserve significant credit for their efforts; they were instrumental in the setup, pack-down, and organization of the relay teams. Their leadership and constant encouragement ensured the day was a success for everyone involved.

Our top Junior this year was **Cade Thorndike** who came 1st in the 400m, 2nd in High Jump and 3rd in 100m, 800m, and 1500m. **Levi Christensen** was our top Intermediate with a 1st in Long Jump, 2nd 400m and 3rd in 100. **Cooper Smith** impressed on the day and was our top Senior with firsts in the 100m and 400m.



The final House point totals for the day:

House	Chanel	Pompallier	Marcellin	Roncalli
Total	1066	1050	900	818



Zone Athletics

This year's Zone Athletics took place Tuesday 3rd March. A big thank you to Mr Hayden Miller and Mr Dean Crow for running the Long Jump and to Mrs Helen Chileshe for acting as Team Manager.

Our Junior students performed well with **Heath Martin** coming 2nd in the 800m (2:21.33) and 3rd in the 1500m (4:54.41) and **Bach Truong** who came 2nd in the High Jump with a height of 1.45m.

Our Intermediates impressed with **Levi Christensen** coming 1st in the Long Jump (5.43m) and 1st in the Triple Jump (11.61m). Levi also came 2nd in the 400m (54.02) and 6th in the 200m. **Levi Maulder** also came 3rd in Int 100m (11.92).

Our top Senior competitors were **Cooper Smith** who came 2nd in the 100m (11.34) and 200m (22.91) and **Jayden Smith** who picked up 3rd in the Shotput (11.19).

Our **Senior relay team** also came 2nd in the 4X100m.

Congratulations to all those involved.



Whaanau Ope - Noho Marae

Karanga te poo

Karanga te ao

Karanga mai te ringa aroha kua autoro atu ki a koutou, ko too manawa, ko tooku manawa

Tuituia

A great start to the year with 83 of our Whaanau Ope enjoying each other's company, learning haka, waiata, mihi and karakia. These are all part of our everyday tiikanga here at St John's College.

Day 1 - Poowhiri, followed by getting to know each other before dinner. That evening we broke into two groups with those knowing karakia and mihi doing haka and the other group learning mihi and karakia. Bullrush and touch are always on the agenda.

Day 2 - Mau Raakau with Matua Mauri, Haka for everyone followed by lunch and the final clean up.

It's always good seeing our teina mixing it up with their tuakana in a setting outside of kura.

Aku Mihi ngaa kaiako o te Whaanau Ope.

Matua Jordan Rangihika
TIC Te Reo Maaori



Waka Ama returns to St John's College

2026 will see the return of Waka Ama to St John's College. After a number of queries from motivated parents a plan was made to get our young men to Rotorua for the event. Quinn, Taina, Xavier, Taina, Blake and Caede all performed exceptionally well for their first time at Secondary School Nationals.

They entered the 250m and 500m races and the 250m mixed with Sacred Heart Girls' College which was a challenging highlight for our young men.

We look forward to seeing how this progresses for the future.

Mauri ora.

Matua Jordan Rangihika
TIC Te Reo Maaori



Historic 1st XI cricket team celebrates success

St John's Cricket 1st XI made history this season by winning the Men's Division T20 title for the first time ever. It marks a landmark achievement for the team and the wider St John's cricket community, reflecting months of dedication, hard work, and outstanding performances across the season. The team also managed to reach the final of the limited overs competition and is currently leading the 2-day competition as well.

Throughout the campaign, the side showed consistency with both bat and ball, building momentum with key victories and strong team contributions. The players demonstrated resilience in tight matches and maintained a high standard of cricket, which ultimately secured their place at the top of the competition table.



This historic title is a testament to the commitment of the players, coaches, and supporters who have backed the team throughout the season. Their success not only celebrates a remarkable year on the field but also sets a new benchmark for St John's Cricket moving forward. The team will be in action during the regional Gillette cup. We wish them well.

Mr Joe Smal
TIC Cricket



St John's College
Foundation

Stay Connected with St John's College

The St John's College Foundation helps Old Boys and supporters **stay connected** with the College community while supporting opportunities for our students.

Join our **database** to receive updates on events, news from the College, and ways to stay involved.



foundation.stjohns-hamilton.school.nz



facebook.com/stjohnscollegefoundation

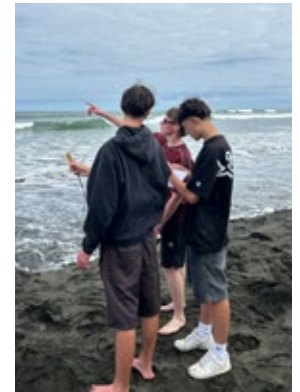


Field trips in Term 1

The Great Sand-Off: Year 13 vs. Port Waikato

The Year 13 Geography class recently visited their research site at the eroding glory of Port Waikato. Famously known as Sunset Beach we were far too busy with tape measures, our goal as the rugged stretch of coastline served as our laboratory for the day. The aim and hypothesis? To figure out why Port Waikato is essentially eroding? With two decades of serious erosion under its belt, we showed up to evaluate the stability of the sand dunes before they decided to disappear. To prove our hypotheses, we didn't just stand around looking at the waves. We deployed some important data to gather the "good stuff" for our upcoming assessment. We measured distances and slope angles to evaluate the dunes anatomy. Let's say some dunes have a higher angle than others. By tracking the wind speed and direction we were able to see the transportation of sand moving around the coastline. We then moved into the data of swash, backwash, and longshore drift. It turns out that tracking which direction the water moves and how much sand comes in and goes out was fun. Was it a success? Absolutely. Aside from the sunny hot sun blistering day, every student walked away with a lot of reliable data.

Alfie Mason
Year 13 Geography Student



Sweet Success for Year 12 Geographers

Don't let the jellybeans fool you—there was some serious spatial analysis happening in the Geography classes this term.

The Year 12s have been investigating the temporal patterns of crime and ethnic change in Chicago, tracing a century of change from 1910 to 2010.

By physically mapping these shifts with colorful confectionery, students gained a clearer perspective of the ethnic changes that have occurred. They may be counting down the days until their Term 2 field trip, but for now, they're proving that high-level geography is even better when it's with jellybeans.

Mrs Andrea Bossenger
TIC Geography





Invasion of the Waikato - History Field Trip 4th and 5th of March

This year, in combination with visits to The University of Waikato’s library to supplement research, our Year 13 History students had the opportunity to go on a two day trip across the Waikato, visiting different sites and redoubts as we followed the course of the British Imperial army as they marched into the Waikato all those years ago. Starting all the way up in Pukekohe East, down all the way to Orakau, spanning across more than 100 kilometres. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to deepen their understanding of Aotearoa’s past and gain a sense of appreciation for the land we walk on today in this unforgettable field trip focused on the Invasion of the Waikato.

Our Year 13 History students from St John’s College-including 13MAO (for the first time) and Sacred Heart Girls’ College once again teamed up for what turned out to be the largest History trip ever undertaken by our department—a whopping 70 students took part. Over the course of two days, we followed a full and carefully planned itinerary that brought history to life through hands-on fieldwork and site visits. Deeply enriching the level of detail our history boys can apply in their ongoing internal.

The trip included key locations such as the Old Pukekohe East Presbyterian Church, Rangiriri Pā, Pāterangi Pā, Rangiaowhia, and Orākau. Standing on the whenua where these pivotal events occurred gave students a deeper and more personal understanding of the complexities of the conflict. Seeing first-hand how Te Wharepu’s clever defensive designs at Rangiriri misled General Cameron added real insight into classroom learning.

A real highlight of the trip included visits inside the historic Old St John’s Church in Te Awamutu and St Paul’s Church at Rangiaowhia—spaces rich in history and significance. The Reverend Julie Guest has stepped down as vicar of St John’s Anglican Church to concentrate on her role as Archdeacon of Waitomo so was unable to deliver her usual talk to the group. She must be acknowledged for the time she took and the calibre of her talk to the students over the past few years. We wish her all the best as she focuses on her key role. Nonetheless, kaiako found visiting these sites extremely fruitful.

On the second day of the trip, we managed a quick stop at Matakītiki Pā, site of a significant Musket Wars battle in 1822—familiar territory for our Year 9s and now given an in-depth dive as Year 13s. Students were able to reflect on how warfare, technology, and fortification strategies evolved between the Musket Wars and the heavily fortified Pāterangi line in 1864. Acknowledging Māori strategic and tactical genius is key to gaining a better understanding of the Invasion. Students were given the opportunity to see beyond the confines of the Invasion of the Waikato and see how the invasion is only one part of Aotearoa’s rich and diverse history.

A major highlight was our visit to the Waikato Black Powder Arms Club. The club members generously shared their knowledge—and their firepower. Students got the rare chance to handle, see and most importantly, fire these period weapons such as muskets, pistols and revolvers. Under careful supervision, some even got the once in a lifetime chance to load and fire these historic arms, gaining a literal and metaphorical feel for the battlefield conditions of the 1860s.

Those interested in exploring these sites themselves, we highly recommend visiting these sites in-person as these can be easily accessed to the public. Or if you prefer online means, we recommend the **Heritage New Zealand** website, which offers excellent resources and downloadable apps: <https://www.heritage.org.nz/resources/apps>

If you’re keen to connect with the Waikato Black Powder Arms Club, either consult Matua Google or get in touch with Mr Cullen-Wright.

Euan Casimiro
Year 13 History Student





Year 11 Geography students study Raglan beach

After a postponement due to bad weather, the Year 11 geography trip took place on Monday the 16th of March. During the trip both geography classes split into groups of 4 to 6. We then analysed the dunes and collected data about the dunes, data ranging from the vegetation amount and types, the profile of the beach, saltation amount and wind speed. Many of us took photos and drew up a sketch of the dunes or the blowouts.

Throughout the day, it was quite enjoyable and productive where we spent a day at Raglan beach with friends and peers. We collaborated and worked together to gather the data for the assessment. It was a productive, laidback day of peer bonding and geographical discovery, the trip was calm where we didn't have to focus on the assessment and had time to hangout with peers. There's something about the Raglan breeze that makes data collection feel less like "school work" and more like "hanging out with friends while holding a ruler."

Xander Chong- Linwood
Year 11 Geography student



Swimming Sports 2026

This year's Swimming Sports event took place at Waterworld on the 19th March. There were about 65 competitors. The senior event was dominated by Alex Copcean who broke an incredible seven school records including one that has stood for 20 years.

Everett Williams did equally well in the intermediate division. He broke five school records.

A huge thanks to Sarndra Petrin who helped organise and run the event, Mr Sean Cullen Wright for calling and organising the heats, Mrs Carolyn Morris for being in charge of the timekeepers and to our Sports leaders (Cooper Smith & Will Macfie), House Leaders and Year 12's who helped timekeep.

House point totals:

House	Marcellin	Chanel	Pompallier	Roncalli
Total	693	725	379	326

Records Broken

Alex Copcean

- 200 Im Time 2.12.23
- 50 Backstroke time 28.19
- 50 Butterfly time 26.60
- 100 Butterfly time 1.00.53
- 200 Freestyle time 1.58.15
- 100 Im time 1.02.09
- 50 freestyle time 25.03

Everett Williams

- 50 Backstroke time 25.63
- 100 Freestyle time 53.38
- 50 Butterfly time 26.90
- 100 Im time 1.05.03
- 50 Freestyle 24.97



Fun in the sun (and rain!)

The medals season started positively for us with two silvers at the North Island Club Championships.

U18 4+ - Sam Overdeest, Cooper Watt, Kenai Toni, Nathan Moore - coxed by Ben Cattle. Coached by Kylee Corboy and Jack Clark

U18 Nov 4+ - Liam Coutts, Benson Watt, Joseph Langley, Eli Ah Ping - coxed by Braxton Klenner. Coached by (old boy) Ardern Morunga and Arianna Robinson

A few of the squad also participated in the National Club Championships. Our U18 boat had to move to a coxless version of the 4 racing in the men's club division which was a challenge in the heat but put it all together in the next race, taking out the B final. Our novice 4 gained another silver medal. A fantastic achievement for our under 15 rowers competing against rowers of all ages.



Taking flight: The Eagle's path to Maadi

What a season we have had so far. A small squad punching well above its weight.

New boats

At the start of our Christmas camp we were fortunate to have Monsignor Frank come and bless our two brand new boats. These boats have been expertly produced by Laszlo Boats and we are really lucky to have them supporting our squad.

The Finn Hamill - a double named after old boy Finn who is currently a member of the NZ elite rowing squad rowing this boat as well as the NZ beach sprint rowing squad.

Te Ekara ō Hato Hoani (the Eagle of St John's) - a new 8 which our seniors have proudly rowed at a number of regattas in the second half of the season. We would like to thank the BoT for supporting us with the new 8.



North Island secondary school championships is the final opportunity for rowers to demonstrate whether they can meet the requirements to be selected for the Maadi regatta. All of the boys gave everything they had - emptying the tank in every race they participated in. This regatta saw us achieve 7 A finals the best result since 2017 (where the team made 8 A finals). An impressive result from a small team (only 21 athletes) at one of the biggest regattas of the season.

Unfortunately not everyone can be selected but those boys who did not make the final squad gave their all throughout the season. I was particularly impressed to see a number of these young men stay behind to support their squad mates as they competed in finals on the Sunday afternoon.

Good luck to the 14 athletes heading off to the Maadi Regatta in Twizel (results to come in the Eagle next term). A huge thank you to the coaches who have given endless hours to support the squad, the committee and all the parents who have fed, transported and supported the team throughout the season. We could not have done this without the support of our sponsors, Schick Construction, Fosters Construction Group Ltd and Kukri as well as donations from others who are too numerous to mention.



We are always looking for new sponsors so if you would like to be involved in this successful code please contact Jackie Smith for details - jsmith@stjohns-hamilton.school.nz





Technology students in action

