



Manukau
Christian School

Dear Parents

High School Update

March 2018

Welcome to New Students and celebration of Growth

MCS High school has made history this year! We have had our first intake of Year 12 students, and have reached our highest ever roll number of 39 students. We thank God for his goodness to us in blessing us over the past few years with growth. Thanks also go to all our parents who have entrusted their children to our teaching.

We are excited by the results our students achieved in the second year of sitting the Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE). 50% of our results were A or A* , the highest grades possible. 91% of our grades were passes. This is a testament both to the hard work of our teachers and our students.

We would also like to that this opportunity of wishing you a blessed Easter. May we as God's people be full of praise and joy for our risen Lord and Saviour.



Congratulations to our A students: Grace Paddison, Mae Savill, Caitlin Shallard, Esha Kumar, Talitha Sharma, Rebekah Shallard.

Why we have chosen Cambridge

As you are no doubt aware, there has been much debate about the value of NCEA in recent days. While New Zealand's results in international testing such as PISA show declining educational performance since 2002, and research in 2014 found that 40% of Year 12 students with NCEA Level 2 failed international functional reading and numeracy tests, NCEA data over the same period paints a picture of constant improvement. This raises the extremely important question about the value of NCEA as a qualification. How can students be gaining NCEA when they lack basic literacy and numeracy skills?

At MCS, we believe the Cambridge curriculum is a superior option which better prepares students for work or the rigours of tertiary study. Consistently as students from MCS high school leave to attend other schools which do NCEA, they find themselves streaks ahead of their new classmates. Many end up being put forward a year in core subjects. A full high school education at MCS will give your child the best opportunity for success in their chosen field of tertiary study.

To view a video clip on the merits of Cambridge, click on the link:

<http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridge-for/principals-and-heads/why-cambridge/>



What does the research say?

In recent years there has been a lot of interest in 'learning styles.' There have been claims that some people are visual learners, while others are aural, or kinaesthetic learners. This concept has been used to theorise that students perform better when they are taught according to their preferred learning style.

While this sounds good in theory, there are actually a number of issues with this approach. First of all, students need to be taught to adapt themselves to the wide variety of situations they will find themselves in as adults. When students are told they are a particular type of learner, they often take this to mean that is the only way they can learn, causing them to shut off when their preferred learning style is not being catered to.

But more importantly, there is actually no scientific support for the claim that students learn better when taught according to their preferred learning style. According to Professor Bruce Hood, Chair in Developmental Psychology in Society at the University of Bristol, the practice is of questionable value. New Zealand's own Professor John Hattie in *Visible Learning and the Science of How We Learn* explains, "We are all visual learners, and we all are auditory learners, not just some of us." In fact research has demonstrated that multi-modal inputs are the most effective way to help learners.

At Manukau Christian School, we believe that a wide range of teaching styles should be used in each subject, and students should attempt to improve their ability to learn through a variety of mediums. We believe this will best help prepare them to be adaptable – a key to success in the modern world.

Hike

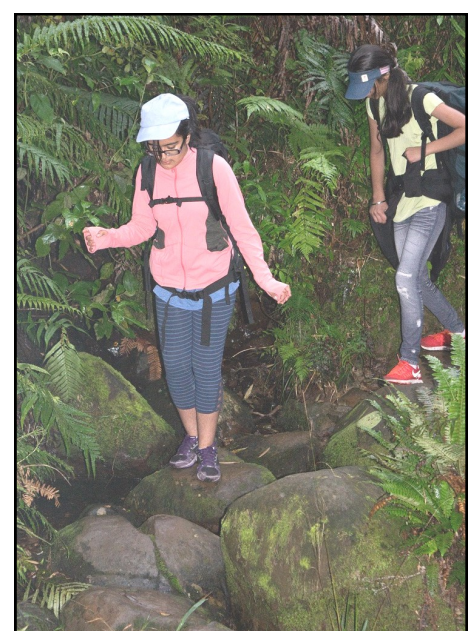
The tramp to Waitawheta was an exhilarating experience. Although the 3 hour walk there was exhausting, we still made it to the hut in one piece. The long drop toilet was disgusting, but we still dealt with it. Unfortunately, it was raining on the second day of our journey. This was compensated for with the delicious taste of McDonald's. – **Kenny**



The Waitawheta tramp was a phenomenal experience that the Year 9's partook in. Discovering more of God's creation was definitely one of my highlights. Although we had to walk out in some icy, heavy rain, our hunger for McDonald's motivated us to keep going. This tramp was an amazing opportunity and I would do it again in a heartbeat. – **Tsidkenu**

The highlight of my day was probably playing Mafia with everyone. – **Pakawat**

At the hut we all settled down for a game of Mafia. We thoroughly enjoyed playing it, and I think Mafia might even be a Year 9 favourite. – **Sylvia**



Highlight Subject: AS Level Psychology



Psychology can be defined as the "science of the mind and behaviour". Most topics in psychology can be explored from a number of different approaches e.g, biological, cognitive, learning and social perspectives. Cambridge offers Psychology at AS and A levels. It is a challenging but interesting and practical course set at a pre-university level.

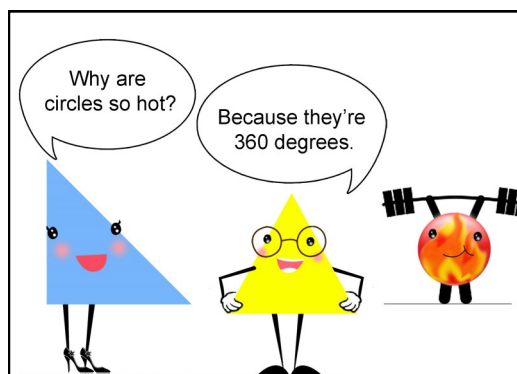
At MCS, studying psychology from a Christian perspective enables students to discover and apply a truly Christian worldview to the topics covered. It helps our pupils develop an awareness of unbiblical secular assumptions about human nature and the human condition.

Sickness

As we are coming into the colder months more and more of us will struggle with sick days. Some classes occur only once a week while others have double periods. Missing a day can mean missing important work. When your child is sick, encourage them to make sure they demonstrate responsibility by catching up upon their return. One way this can work is by having a study buddy who will gather notes for them in the event of an absence. It is also important to consider whether a sick day is really necessary. Sometimes a headache or a bit of a cough might feel terrible in the morning, but will not really hinder a child from doing a day's school work.

On the Lighter Side

FAITH
is like Wi-Fi,
it's invisible but
it has the power
to connect you to
what you need.



The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.
He named it
"Prayer" ...
It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!

