

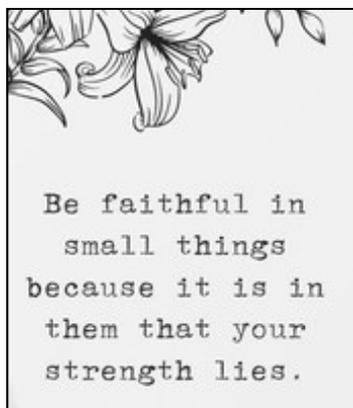


Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Welcome to the 2026 academic year at Manukau Christian School. A great deal of thought, prayer, and planning has gone into preparing for the year ahead, and our teachers have been working for some time to ensure they were ready to welcome students back on Thursday 29 January. As families return to school, you may notice new posters around the campus highlighting our focus for Term 1: **Humility**, with a particular emphasis on teachability and submission. These sit within our wider commitment to cultivating the three core virtues we seek to grow in both students and staff — **Wisdom, Strength, and Humility**. In 2026 we are being especially intentional about embedding these virtues into the life of the school, and we look forward to seeing genuine character growth among our students. Above all, we pray that by God's grace and through the work of His Holy Spirit, this year would be one of faithfulness in the small things, and great fruit over time.

### Faithfulness in the Small Things

When we are asked to think about the things that really shape or change the world, we usually point to big moments — famous leaders, major events, or dramatic turning points in history. And it's true: those things matter. Scripture itself tells us that God raises up kings and brings them down.



But the Bible also teaches something quieter, and in many ways more challenging. God often works through ordinary people, doing ordinary things, faithfully, over a long period of time. King David was a great leader, but without the quiet faithfulness of Boaz and Ruth, there would be no King David. What matters most to God is not how impressive our roles look, but how faithfully we handle what we have been given.

## From the Principal's Desk

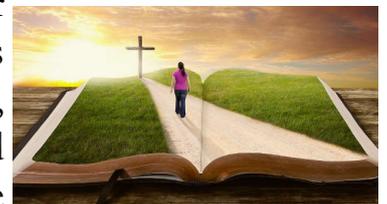
Jesus teaches this in a parable about servants who are each entrusted with different amounts while their master is away. Two of the servants take what their master gives them and turn a profit on it. When the master returns, he praises *faithfulness*. To both servants who used what they were given, the master says the same words: *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.”* Matt 25:23



We like to think of school as a time of investment in the small things. Most of a child's life at school doesn't feel dramatic. Homework, listening in class, practising skills, showing respect, completing work properly, being honest when no one is watching — these things can feel small, repetitive, and unimpressive. But from God's perspective, they matter deeply. He is shaping a child's character, habits, and heart through these small acts of faithfulness.

The Bible shows us this pattern again and again. Thinking about King David again, we often go immediately to the exciting story of his clash with Goliath. But before that dramatic moment were many years of faithful and seemingly insignificant service as a shepherd of his father's sheep, learning how to use a slingshot to protect the silly creatures from predators. That simple faithfulness prepared him for a great slingshot moment when an opportunity for greater responsibility came. Faithfulness in small, unseen things prepared him for much greater ones.

Jesus' words remind us that faithfulness now is never wasted. What you do with the opportunities God has given you — your time, your abilities, your relationships, your attitude — shapes who you are becoming. God often entrusts greater responsibility to those who have learned to be faithful with what is right in front of them.



This isn't only true for individuals; it is also true for communities. Schools, families, and churches develop a character over time. Manukau Christian School itself began very small, with few students and little recognition. For many years, faithfulness looked ordinary and unseen. But over time, God has blessed that steady obedience, and today we have been entrusted with more — more students, more opportunities, and more responsibility.

## From the Principal's Desk

That brings both a challenge and an encouragement for every one of us.

Don't despise the small things. For our students, faithfulness looks like listening well, working honestly, responding humbly to correction, and doing what is right even when it feels unnoticed. The encouragement is this: **God sees**, and He delights in faithfulness.

As we focus this term on **Humility** — especially teachability and submission — remember that humility is often expressed in the quiet decision to be faithful where God has placed you. And as Jesus promises, faithfulness in little things is often the path God uses to prepare His people for much greater things — not for their glory, but for His. Who knows what God has in store for each of our students?



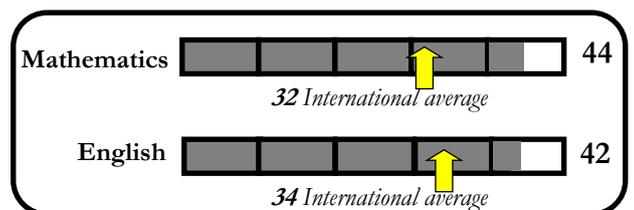
### Outstanding Academic Results from 2025

Over the Christmas holidays, many of our teachers and senior students alike are waiting in anticipation for Cambridge examination results to come out. We are very excited to share with you some wonderful results from the 2025 academic year.

Cambridge assessments at every level—Primary Checkpoints in Year 6, IGCSE at Year 10 and 11, AS, and A-Level at Year 12 and 13—are like monitoring our school's pulse. They help us see where we are thriving and where we need to grow. This process of reflection and refinement is essential to our vision for education, and we are deeply thankful for the hard work of our students and teachers in pursuing these high standards.

### Primary Checkpoint Results (Year 6)

- **Mathematics:** Our students achieved an average score of 44 (on a scale of 0–50), well above the international average of 32 and placing them in the outstanding range.
- **English:** Our students achieved an average score of 42, and surpassing the international average of 34 and also sitting in the outstanding range (41–50).
- These results are an improvement on our 2024 results.



## From the Principal's Desk



Left: Top achievers with **50/50** for both **Mathematics** and **English** Checkpoints: Kayla Posthuma, Basti Alarcon and Claire Chua.



Right: Students who achieved **Outstanding in one subject**: Veronica Chu, Elva Zhu, Caitlyn Chand, Akshaya Sureshan, Iris Yim, Avni Majesh, Noelene Kurian, Matthew Di, Absent: Elliyana Seth



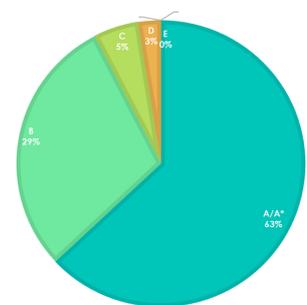
Left: Students who achieved Outstanding in **both English and Math**:

Back row: Basti Alarcon, Soham Chopra, Ellie Luo, Noelene Kurian, Ryaan Bhatia  
Front Row: Kayla Posthuma, Colin Wang, Harleen Mann, Claire Chua, Eva Thomas.

### IGCSE Results (Years 10 & 11)

- 63% of all IGCSE results were A or A\* which is a fabulous achievement
- 92% of results were B or above.

IGCSE GRADES RECEIVED IN 2025



### AS & A-Level Results (Years 12 & 13)

- **Ezra Liu** and **Rohan Prasad**, achieved three *A\* grades* and set a new school record with **420 UCAS** points, which is the maximum possible score.
- 89% of our Year 12 and 13 leavers attained university entrance.
- 39% of AS and A-Level results were B grade or above, reflecting strong performances from many of our students.



*Rohan Prasad and Ezra Liu*

We are thankful to God for teachers who go the extra mile for their students, as well as students who are enthusiastic in their desire to understand God's world.

## Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 High School Assembly, 8:30am	10 ERO Review	11 ERO Review	12 Meet the Teacher Evening, 6pm	13
16 Primary Assembly, 8:40am	17	18	19	20
23 High School Assembly, 8:30am	24	25	26 Waitawheta Trip Y9	27 Waitawheta Trip Y9
2 Mar Primary Assembly, 8:40am	3	4 Trustboard Meeting	5	6
9 High School Assembly, 8:30am	10	11	12	13
16 Primary Assembly, 8:40am	17 Eye on Nature: to be confirmed	18	19	20
23 High School Assembly, 8:30am	24	25	26 Parent Teacher Interviews	27 Letterland Day Y1
30 St John First Aid Y5/6	31	1 Apr	2 High School Assembly 8.30am Primary Assembly 8.50am 12.30pm Finish	3 Good Friday

## General Notices

### ***House Leaders 2026***

We are pleased to announce our 2026 House Leaders. Their responsibilities include mentoring and serving the school community.

**Wilberforce:** Priscilla John

**Tarore:** Josiah Willis

**Calvin:** Xavier Betham

**Te Wiremu:** Keira Shallard



Read more about the amazing Christian leaders after whom our houses are named, in our *Handbook for Families 2026*. The MCS *Handbook* communicates our school's distinctive vision and character that influences student formation. Every family was given a copy last week. Thank you to those families who have read the *Handbook* with their children and returned their slips. Please do so if you have not already.

## General Notices

### ***Meet the Teacher Evening***

A warm thank you to all parents and caregivers who joined us for our *Meet the Teacher* evening last night. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with our staff and taking time to hear about the year ahead.

Evenings like this are a valuable opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school. They allow parents to gain insight into classroom routines, curriculum focus, and expectations, while also helping students feel secure knowing their parents and teachers are working together in support of their learning. We appreciate your commitment to your child's education and your ongoing partnership with us.



Toward the end of the term you will also have the opportunity to meet directly with your child's teacher when we run Parent-Teacher Interviews.

### ***Keeping in Touch***

We use the *Helix app* for notices, reporting absences, calendar events, and reports. Please download the app and keep your email details updated. If there is an unexplained absence, we will phone you to check where your child is. You can also report absences at: [absences@manukachristian.school.nz](mailto:absences@manukachristian.school.nz).



We invite you to join our private **MCS School Community** Facebook group where we post photos of recent events.

### ***School Attendance***

**Attendance is a key predictor of academic success.** At Manukau Christian School we are deeply invested in helping your child succeed.

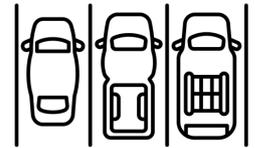


Parents, please partner with us to teach your child **the value of regular and prompt school attendance**. Students settle well when they arrive slightly early, not rushed or late. We discourage students from being collected habitually early, or taking long holidays in term time. High school students must attend regularly before they are permitted to sit exams. The Ministry of Education regards regular attendance to be 90% — no more than 1 day off per 2 weeks.

## General Notices

### ***Car Park Expectations***

As we begin the new school year, please note the following rules and expectations for using the **Rogers Road car park**.



#### ***1. Who May Use the Car Park and When***

- **Before 3:15pm:** Only caregivers of **Years 1-3** students may park, so our youngest students don't need to walk out of school. You **must display a light blue permit card to enter**. For a second card, ask the office. Caregivers of older students—park on street or use the Beaumonts Rd carpark.
- **After 3:15pm:** Parents of older students may park for pickup.
- **Carpark Full:** No entry. A traffic cone will prevent entry when it is full. Entry will resume when 3 or more spaces are available.



#### ***2. Follow the Arrow System – No Exceptions***

- All vehicles **must** follow **the one-way arrow system** at all times. **Never** drive against the arrows.
- If no space is available, exit the carpark and re-enter later.



#### ***3. Park Only in Designated Spaces***

- **Do not park or stop in non-designated areas.** Even temporary parking in non-designated areas (e.g. circulation areas etc) disrupts flow and creates unsafe conditions.
- **Accessible Parks:** Do NOT park without a disability permit.
- **Yellow lines:** Do NOT stop or park on yellow lines.



#### ***4. Follow Staff Instructions***

Duty school staff will be present to close the carpark when full or direct traffic for child safety. Please respect and follow their instructions without argument.

#### ***5. A Call for Christian Courtesy***

At Manukau Christian School, we uphold **biblical principles of loving our neighbours**. This means using the car park with a mindset of **consideration and cooperation**, not frustration or impatience.

- **Be patient and respectful** to fellow parents, staff, and students.
- **Follow the rules** for the benefit of all.
- **Think of others**, not just your own convenience.

Let's make our car park a **safe, efficient, and positive asset** for our school.



## General Notices

### ***School Hours***

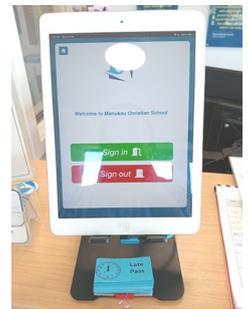


The school office opens 8:15am and closes 3:15pm. Supervision of primary children on the courtyard begins at 8:15am. Primary classrooms open at 8:30am.

Please collect your child by 3:15pm. Use of driving services (i.e. Uber), must be arranged in advance **and before closing time**, so our staff can leave on time. Use of these services is at your own risk, as beyond a basic identity check we cannot guarantee the safety of the driver and child.

### ***Late Students***

If you are late please ensure you sign in, either at the iPad in the main office or high school staff room. Please take a small blue late slip to your teacher as proof of sign-in. Parents will be contacted in the case of any unexplained absences.



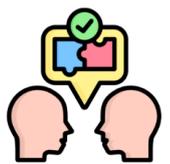
### ***PE Gear***



Physical fitness helps our students concentrate well. Please check your child knows what days to wear or bring their physical education (PE) gear - shorts, and shoes for fitness lessons; and house t-shirt for PE.

### ***Communicating with Your Child's Teacher***

If you have a message for your child's teacher, email the office in the first instance ([admin@manukachristian.school.nz](mailto:admin@manukachristian.school.nz)) or write in their homework book. Outside school hours, please do NOT discuss issues with our teachers, to protect their mental wellbeing and ability to serve.



### ***Dress Code***

Please review the school dress code in our *Handbook*, which covers clothes, hairstyles and jewellery.



### ***Yummy Stickers/Clothing Bin/Lost Property***

Please submit stickers from the **Yummy Fruit Company** to the office to be exchanged for school sports equipment. Used items and clothing in good condition can be donated at a **Clothing Bin** at the Beaumonts Rd carpark. If you have lost items, look in the **Lost Property Bin** (Primary School foyer). Unclaimed items are donated at end of term. Please name your child's clothing, especially hats.



## School Happenings

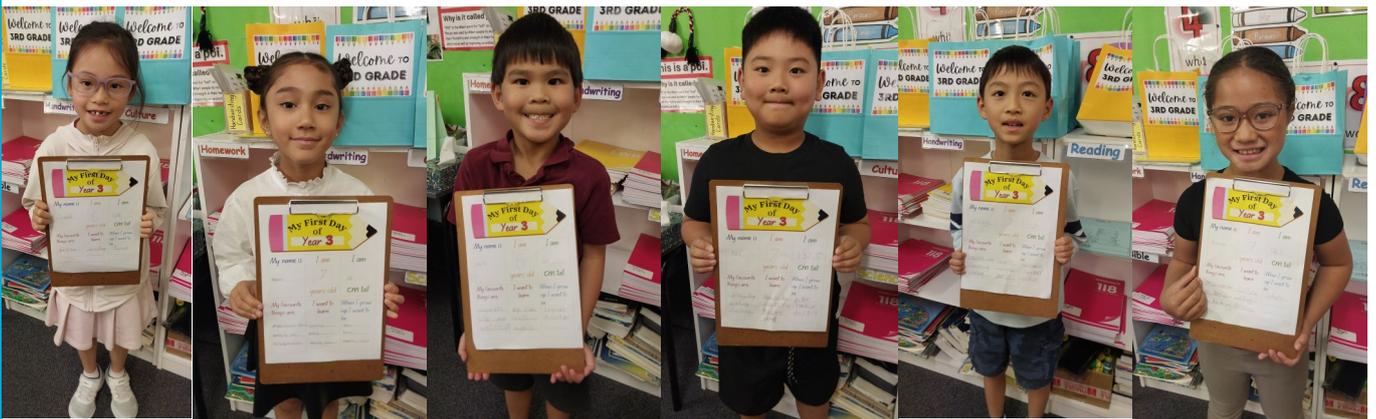
### *First Day of School*

It was a pleasure to welcome our Year 1s on their first day—what a change to move from preschool to ‘big’ school! Our littlest students have settled in well.



The beginning of the year started with two assemblies, one for the primary school, followed by one for the high school. Mr Kennedy welcomed students, teachers and their families. We pray that your children will settle in quickly into their new classroom routines.

### *Year 3 First Day*



### *Parents in Prayer for the School (PIPS)*

Our staff and students appreciate that you keep us in your prayers. We welcome all parents, and encourage parents who are new to the school to join the Parents in Prayer group. This takes place every Friday morning after you have dropped off your child in the morning, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church prayer room. For more information, contact Maria Shallard on [a.m@outlook.co.nz](mailto:a.m@outlook.co.nz).

## School Happenings

### *Year 2-6—Street Rackets*

We are delighted to be offering our **Street Rackets** (Bats, Balls & Skills) programme this term for students in Years 2 to 6 through the Manurewa Squash Club. Over the course of six weeks, students are taking part in specialised, coach-led sessions designed to build strong foundations in racket sports and overall ball-handling skills.

These sessions focus on developing key physical skills such as:

- Hand–eye coordination
- Balance and agility
- Throwing, catching and striking
- Footwork and movement patterns
- Listening, focus and following instructions



Through a fun, structured, and encouraging environment, students are learning the building blocks that support not only squash and tennis-style sports, but a wide range of future athletic pursuits. Just as importantly, they are growing in **confidence**, **perseverance**, and **sportsmanship** as they practise new skills and experience success.

We are grateful for the opportunity provided, and skilful coaching. It has been wonderful to watch students challenge themselves, and enjoy being active together.



## School Happenings

### *Year 7—A Tasty Start to Junior High Cooking*

The Junior High Cooking Module began on a deliciously high note as students stepped into the kitchen to make pancakes. The session was filled with excitement, laughter, and the irresistible smell of freshly cooked batter.

While the end result was certainly tasty, the main focus of the lesson was safety. Students were taught how to work carefully with heat and use the stovetop responsibly. From learning how to handle hot pans safely to understanding the importance of staying alert around hot stovetops, they demonstrated maturity and attentiveness throughout the session.

Armed with their recipes, students eagerly whisked their batter and prepared their ingredients. Once the cooking began, they confidently applied what they had learned, showing both skill and awareness as they flipped their pancakes to golden perfection.

Of course, no cooking lesson would be complete without a little mess! From cracked eggs on the counter to the occasional splash of batter on the stovetop, there was plenty of fun along the way. Most importantly, students learned valuable kitchen skills while working together in an enjoyable and engaging environment.

We look forward to many more hands-on (and tasty!) learning experiences in the weeks ahead.



## Matters for Prayer



### ***Give thanks for***

- Our new teacher, Mr Jonathan Anderson
- Good roll numbers, in particular the number of high school students
- The blessing of wonderful academic results across the school



### ***Please pray for***

- Our new students as they learn the rhythms of school life at MCS, that they will feel part of the family here
- Mrs Harris to make a full recovery from her concussion
- Our practicum students, Mele Maka and Marisa Mendonza as they observe and learn from experienced teachers
- Our school community as we focus on humility in Term 1 that we will model the humility of Christ

## Scripture

**‘His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’**

**Matthew 25:23**

## Term Dates 2026

<b>Term 1</b>	29 Jan to 2 Apr 2026
<b>Term 2</b>	20 Apr to 3 Jul 2026
<b>Term 3</b>	20 Jul to 25 Sep 2026
<b>Term 4</b>	12 Oct to 9 Dec 2026 (Y1-6) 7 Oct to 8 Dec (Y7-10) 7 Oct to 20 Nov (Y11-13)

School finishes at 12.30pm on the last day of each term.

