



Newsletter

Term 2, Week 8, 2026

11 June 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Recently, Manukau Christian School celebrated its 39th birthday. At the same time, we also had the privilege of honouring Mrs Geraldine Oosterbeek for 25 years of faithful service to the school. Both milestones gave us a wonderful opportunity to pause, look back, and give thanks to God.

Rootedness, Gratitude, and the Fruit of Faithfulness

25 years of service in one place is a countercultural thing. We live in a world where people are often encouraged to keep moving from one opportunity to the next. The modern ideal is often mobility, flexibility and personal advancement.

Yet the Bible gives us a different picture of faithfulness. Psalm 1 describes the blessed man as being “like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season.” Jeremiah 17 gives us a similar image: the one who trusts in the Lord is “like a tree planted by water,” with deep roots, bearing fruit even in difficult seasons.

That is a beautiful picture of Christian faithfulness: being planted, remaining, serving, enduring, growing roots and over time, bearing much fruit.



Yet it is because of the long-term faithfulness and sacrifice of staff like Mrs Oosterbeek that our school has become strong. Our school has been built on men and women who have shown faithfulness over the long haul, men and women who have rejected the modern secular ideal of constant movement on the treadmill of personal ambition. Through the faithful labour of many people — parents, teachers, board members, staff, students and supporters, many of whom worked quietly and sacrificially long before the fruit was visible, God has built up this school.



One encouragement I have been giving to our staff and student body this term is the practice of gratitude. As we enjoy the blessings we now have, we must not forget the work that has gone before. Today, our classrooms are more comfortable, our resources are stronger, our staff are better supported and our school is more established. But MCS has not always had these things.

In the early years of the school, parents had to sacrifice a lot of their time to see the school get off the ground. They were involved in practical and hands-on ways. For the first years, parents were expected to volunteer time weekly as parent helpers. Others made resources for language and maths, cutting pictures from magazines, sticking them onto cardboard and preparing learning materials by hand. Some helped build tables and dividers and equipment for the classrooms. Because funds were very limited, much had to be improvised. Even school games sometimes required creativity — including games of rounders played with an empty two-litre plastic detergent bottle as the bat.



Many teachers served at significant personal cost. For many years, staff were paid well below what they would have received in the state system. When the school moved to its current site, there was no air conditioning in the classrooms and the heat during summer could be intense. Teachers worked without the release periods that are now considered normal. Even in more recent years, when the high school was first being established, some classes required remarkable flexibility. At one stage, Year 9, 10 and 11 science students were all taught together in one class, with the teacher differentiating across the different year levels.

These things are worth remembering because gratitude is strengthened by memory. When we forget what others have sacrificed, we can easily become entitled. We can focus only on what is not yet right, what is still difficult, or what we wish was better. Of course, there will always be things to improve. We should keep seeking excellence. But Christian gratitude teaches us to look back and see how far God has brought us.



The school we enjoy today did not simply appear. It has grown from roots that were put down years ago. It has been shaped by people who stayed, served, prayed, gave, sacrificed, built, taught, organised, endured and kept showing up. Mrs Oosterbeek's 25 years of service are a wonderful example of that kind of rooted faithfulness. Her work, much of it behind the scenes, has helped give the school continuity, stability, warmth and strength.

But the deeper point is not simply that someone has stayed in one place for a long time. A dead tree can stay in one place. The fruit comes because the tree is planted by water. The blessing of rootedness is faithfulness rooted in Christ.

That is what we long for at MCS: a school that remains rooted in Christ. As we mark 39 years of the school, we give thanks to God. We thank Him for the pioneers who began the work. We thank Him for the parents who sacrificed time, money, and energy. We thank Him for the teachers who served faithfully with limited resources. We thank Him for those who built, organised, governed, prayed and persevered. We thank Him for Mrs Oosterbeek and for her 25 years of faithful service.



And we pray that the Lord would continue to make MCS like a tree planted by streams of water, rooted in Christ, fruitful in season and faithful for generations to come.

Don't Shoot the Messenger

As parents, it is never easy to receive negative feedback about our children. A blue card, a yellow card or a minus on a primary weekly report can sometimes feel personal, as though it reflects on us, our parenting or our child's character.



But I want to encourage our parents to see these things for what they are: not an attack, not a crisis and not the end of the world, but one way the school partners with you in raising your children.

Teachers see your children in a setting that parents do not always get to see. We see them in the classroom, on the playground, in group work and in moments when they need to listen, follow instructions, show self-control or take responsibility. Sometimes this means we notice patterns that may not be obvious at home.

Because we are committed to educating the whole child, including Christian character, it is our duty to let parents know what we are seeing. A blue card might simply be our way of saying, "Here is something we have noticed. Your child may need help growing in organisation, obedience, diligence or follow-through."

When feedback is hard to hear, it is helpful to pause and ask: "Was I there? What might the teacher see that I do not know? How can I use this to help my child grow?"

So, don't shoot the messenger. Listen to what the school is seeing, speak with your child calmly and use these moments as opportunities for helping your child grow in wisdom, strength and humility.

Scott Kennedy

Principal



Visitor from the Ministry of Education



Last week we had the privilege of welcoming Lisa Cavanagh from the Ministry of Education to MCS. Lisa serves in a Leadership Advisory Role and as a past principal at a local school, her wealth of knowledge and insights provide valuable support and guidance to leaders across the Auckland region.

We appreciated the opportunity to share with Lisa what is happening at MCS and to benefit from her encouragement and expertise.

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 June Primary Assembly 8:40am	9 Gymsport Y1-2, 1:30pm	10	11	12 Swimming Y3-6
15 High School Assembly 8:30am	16	17 Senior Sausage Sizzle	18	19 Swimming Y3-6
22 Primary Assembly 8:40am	23	24	25	26 Dress Up Day Y1-13 (Details to follow)
29	30	1 July 2026 Junior Sausage Sizzle	2	3 High School Assembly 8:30am Primary Assembly 8:50am
6 HOLIDAYS	7 HOLIDAYS	8 HOLIDAYS	9 HOLIDAYS	10 HOLIDAYS (Matariki)
13 HOLIDAYS	14 HOLIDAYS	15 HOLIDAYS	16 HOLIDAYS	17 HOLIDAYS
20 Term 3 Begins High School Assembly 8:30am Primary Assembly 8:50am	21	22	23 Reports Issued	24 25 Ceilidh 7pm
27	28	29 Parent Interviews Y7-13 3:30-5:30pm	30 Parent Interviews Y1-13 1:10-7:30pm	31

Mid Year Reports and Parent Meetings

Mid-year reports will be handed out in Week 1 of Term 3, Thursday, 23 July. This will be followed up by Parent Meetings in Week 2.

- **Primary School:** Thursday 30 July 1:10pm-7:30pm
- **High School:** Wednesday 29 July from 3:30pm-5:30pm **and** Thursday 30 July 1:10pm-7:30pm

School finishes at 12:30pm on 30 July 2026.

These interviews are an opportunity to provide parents and teachers time to discuss how to assist their child for the second half of the year and help with re-focussing efforts for the latter part of the year.

Truthful Reporting: What Our Grades Mean

At Manukau Christian School, our reporting system is built on a simple but important commitment: we aim to tell the truth. For us, this is a Christian conviction. As a school that seeks to honour Christ in all things, we believe honesty matters, including in the way we assess and report student performance.

In many schools today, grades can become inflated. Students may receive “excellent” ratings so often that top grades begin to feel normal. While this may seem encouraging, it does not always give parents or students a clear and accurate picture. Over time, inflated grades can undermine clarity, growth and trust.

Our approach is different.

Student Achievement

We use a scale of **1 to 5** to report on Student Achievement in each subject.



- **A "3"** represents a satisfactory standard for achievement. It means the student is doing what is required, meeting expectations and demonstrating an acceptable level of understanding or skill. We are genuinely satisfied with your child's progress and want to be very clear: **this is a positive result.**
- **"4" and "5"** are awarded for students who are achieving above the expected standard. A **"5"** reflects true excellence and is awarded carefully — by definition, excellence is exceptional. For this reason, it is rare for a student to receive 5's across the board. This is not a negative reflection on the student. It is simply an honest reflection of the nature of excellence and the natural strengths and limits of each individual.
- **Grades below 3** indicate that expectations are not yet being consistently met and that further support, growth or intervention may be needed.

Achievement vs. Effort

It is important to understand that achievement and effort are not the same thing. God has gifted students differently. A student may work very hard in a subject and still find it difficult to achieve at the highest level. Another student may be naturally gifted in a subject and achieve highly without putting in the effort they should. For this reason, a student's achievement grade and effort grade may not always match.

Our effort grades are intended to reflect how well a student is applying themselves both inside and outside of class, not simply how high their academic results are. A student who is trying hard, completing work carefully, listening well, contributing in class and making the most of their ability may receive a strong effort grade even if their achievement grade is not at the top of the scale. Likewise, a student who achieves highly may still receive a lower effort grade if, in the teacher's opinion, they are not working diligently or making the most of the gifts God has given them.

Our goal is simply to give you a **clear, honest and caring** picture of where your child stands — so that together we can support their growth.

New Year 3 Teacher



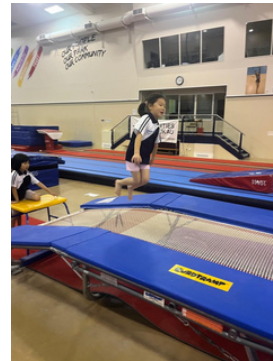
We would like to warmly welcome Mrs Suné van Rhyn (pronounced "FAHN-RAY-N") as our new Year 3 teacher from Term 3.

Mrs van Rhyn is part of our parent community and mother to Liam. She will begin in Week 9 and work alongside Mrs Fiona Vaea for 3 weeks, allowing for a smooth transition and handover. Mrs Vaea will be on maternity leave from Term 3.

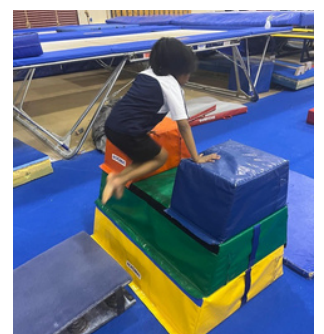
Gymsport Year 1-2

Over the past four weeks, students have enjoyed participating in the Gymsport programme, developing their strength, balance, coordination and confidence through a range of fun and challenging activities. It has been wonderful to see students stepping outside their comfort zones, persevering with new skills and encouraging one another along the way. Thank you to our wonderful parents who have helped with transport and supervision - these trips would not have been possible without you.

"My favourite part of Gymsport is station six because we do a lot of swinging and jumping. And it's my favourite place!"
- Ivan Y2



"Gymsport days are a lot of fun because they have stations and bars and trampolines and parents to help them. We really like Gymsport. So does everyone."
- Sophia Y2



Museum Visit - Volcanoes

Our Year 3, 4 and 5 classes enjoyed a visit from the Auckland Museum *Volcano Van*. The presenter, Mr Aaron McKinnon, commented how polite and well-prepared our students were, asking excellent questions.



"When the Museum man (Aaron) allowed us to pack the bag, it was really funny when a group, um.... Packed an electricity game. I learned that there are 53 volcanoes in Auckland that are extinct and Rangitoto is dormant." - **Mehrsa Y3**

"What I liked the most was feeling the rocks like obsidian, pumice, and volcanic bombs and seeing Rangitoto Island. It was a lot of fun!" - **Yunchul Y3**

"I enjoyed the evacuation practice and naming different types of rocks. I learnt that Rangitoto is 600 years old. It is young for volcanoes, but old for humans." - **Abigail Y3**



"We are grateful that Aaron, the volcanologist has taught us about volcanoes and what would happen if we experienced a real one. We especially loved that he taught us about the amazing rocks. They were all mysterious, hard to find, and one could float on water! We all loved it, and we hope we can learn more about it!" - **Japjot Y5**

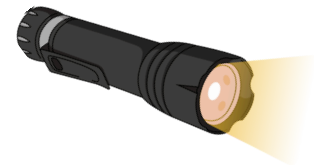


Police Visit

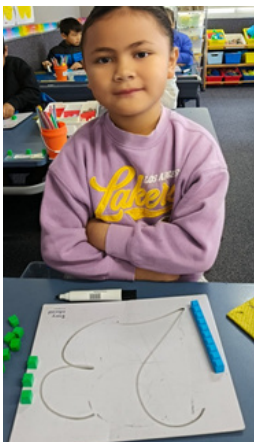
It was a pleasure to host Constable Simon, Constable Ane and Detective Arun to speak with our Year 1-6 students about their work in the police force.

“The police event in the assembly was fabulous with lots of special equipment. I was very excited about the very special talks from the police.” - **Maksim, Y5**

“My favourite officer is Constable Simon. They wear tasers, flashlights and pepper spray. They had a show and tell. I liked it.” - **Vihaan, Y5**



Math U See



Maths is about much more than numbers! Through our Math-U-See programme, students in Year 1 and 2 are using manipulatives, visual models and practical activities to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. From mastering basic facts to tackling more complex problems, it has been encouraging to see students growing in both confidence and competence as mathematicians.

Swimming



"I enjoyed swimming because I just got there and swam. During swimming lessons, I learned how to do my front (arm) strokes properly and to improve. I surprised myself when I just got better and I didn't even notice."

- Wesley, Y3

"I surprised myself when I finally knew how to do freestyle and other stuff at swimming, I also surprised myself when I knew how to swim properly."

I enjoyed it because all my friends are with me and the instructors are very fun and helpful as well as very kind! My favourite part of swimming is going across the swimming pool doing swimming things, especially doing freestyle! I learned diving, swimming, back stroke, and freestyle on the swimming board and floating backwards because I already know how to float forward."

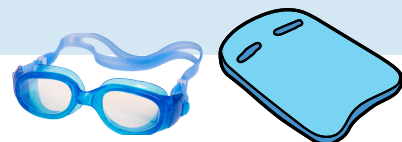
- Esra Y3

"I enjoyed swimming because it was fun. I surprised myself when I saw the pools and hot pool."

- Darsh Y3

"My favourite part of swimming is learning how to do dolphin dives. During swimming lessons, I learned some strokes and also learned some mushroom floats. I enjoyed swimming because it helps me to learn new things and I also like doing new things like volleyball, basketball, and especially swimming. I surprised myself when I learned how to float."

- Atheina Y3



Practical Exams



Last week our AS Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics students sat their Cambridge practical examinations. These subjects require students to complete practical exams, putting their laboratory skills to the test as well as their scientific knowledge.



For several hours, the lab was filled with concentrated faces, careful measurements and the occasional moment of wondering whether the experiment was working as intended! We commend our students for the preparation, patience and perseverance they demonstrated throughout the examinations and wish them every success with their results.

High School Term 4 Exams

Students in our high school will sit external Cambridge exams in Term 4. These are completed over several weeks in October and November. Exam dates cannot be changed as they are pre-set by Cambridge International. Students are expected to sit exams for all subjects that they are studying.

November series IGCSE, AS and A Level exams have been invoiced. Please settle these fees by the end of the term. Students who have not paid will not be able to sit their exams.



Please note that June Series Cambridge Exam results will be available on 11 August for AS and A Level and 18 August for IGCSE examinations.

Year 6 Checkpoint Exams

Students in Year 6 will sit the internationally recognised exam in Week 1 and 2 of Term 4. Fees will be invoiced at \$50 per subject. Exam dates are:

- **Tuesday 13 October:**
Maths Paper 1, Maths Paper 2
- **Tuesday 20 October:**
English Paper 1, English Paper 2



Introducing our new Virtue Awards for 2026

This year, we are excited to introduce a number of very special new awards that will celebrate the character and values we want to see flourish in our students across both the Primary and High School.

Throughout the year, we will be recognising students who exemplify three important virtues: Humility, Wisdom and Strength. These virtues will not simply be recognised in words, but in the way students carry themselves, treat others, make decisions and respond to challenges each day.

At the end of the year, a total of 12 prestigious Virtue Awards will be presented:

Primary School

- 3 awards in Junior Primary (Year 1-3)
- 3 awards in Senior Primary (Year 4-6)

High School

- 3 awards in Junior High (Year 7-9)
- 3 awards in Senior High (Year 10-13)

These awards are designed to encourage every student to actively pursue these qualities and strive to embody them throughout the year.

To make these awards even more memorable, each virtue will be represented by a special symbolic prize.

High School Awards	Primary School Awards
✂️ Strength – A Sword	🦁 Strength – A Lion Plush Bear
🔭 Wisdom – A Telescope	🦉 Wisdom – An Owl Plush Bear
✝️ Humility – A Cross	🐑 Humility – A Lamb Plush Bear

Virtues Corner



The names of the award recipients will be memorialised on a special shield that will be proudly displayed in the school office for years to come.

We encourage all students to reflect on what it truly means to be strong, humble and wise, and to intentionally live out these virtues in their daily lives. These awards are something truly special to strive for, and we look forward to watching our students grow in character and virtue across the course of the year.

Above right: Mr Aloiai showing students one of the award shields at assembly.



High School Module: Painting



watercolour painting

The painting module with Mrs Maney saw high school students use watercolour pencils to design and colour in their stylised landscape creations, inspired by the art of Sam Lewry. Outlining in black ink creates a bold contrast to bring their artwork to life. The results have been impressive, with each student producing a unique work that showcases their own style while revealing creativity and attention to detail.

Mother's Day Year 1-6

While we did not hold a large school-wide Mother's Day celebration this year, students took the opportunity to create cards and share thoughtful messages for their mothers. We recognise the special role that mothers play in God's design for the family. We are thankful for the love, care, sacrifice and godly influence that so many mothers bring to the lives of their children. We trust that our mothers felt appreciated and valued on their special day.



Help Needed: Exam Supervisors



📖 Do you have a few hours to spare during the week? We're looking for reliable, punctual and observant people to join our team as invigilators for Term 4 exam supervision.

- 🕒 Exam sessions run for 1 to 2.5 hours
- 📅 Choose the days that suit you
- ✅ Full training provided
- 💰 Paid position

If you're interested in supporting our students during this important time, please contact Mrs Oosterbeek in the school office for more information.

Email admin@manukachristian.school.nz

Health and Wellness

As the weather gets colder we do see an increase of sickness in our school. Remind your child to cough into their elbows, wash hands and practice healthy habits, including good sleep, food, exercise and vitamin C.

If your child has had vomiting/diarrhoea, please keep them home for 48 hours after the last incident. If your child is absent, you can record this with the Helix App. Download Helix SMS from Google Play.



Ceilidh

At Manukau Christian School, our events are vibrant celebrations of what we value and the wonderful young men and women our students are becoming. That is why we are so excited for our senior social event: **the MCS Ceilidh!**



What is a Ceilidh? Think total joy, fantastic live music, fun group dances, lots of laughter and a wonderful sense of belonging. A Ceilidh is the ultimate celebration! It gives our students a fabulous opportunity to dress up and enjoy wholesome, high-energy fun, where the focus is entirely on shared participation and making memories together rather than social pressure, extravagance or status.

Christians know how to celebrate best! While traditional school balls often come with a lot of cultural expectations and pressure, our Ceilidh is a deliberate, refreshing alternative. It's a space designed to perfectly align with the warm, faith-filled mission and vision of MCS.

We want every family to be part of the joy, which is why we keep this evening incredibly affordable. Thanks to MCS subsidising the event, tickets are only \$25. This is truly exceptional value for a night featuring a live band, a professional dance caller, and great food—especially when school balls across Auckland can often cost hundreds of dollars.

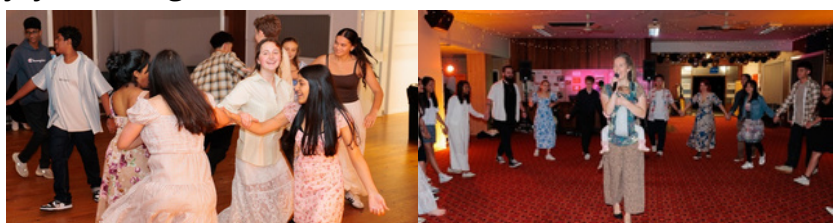
Our Ceilidh reflects the beautiful, connected community we are building together. We warmly invite:

- Students from Years 10 to 13
- Our wonderful Alumni
- Staff and their spouses
- Our dedicated Board Members

It is a beautiful thing to see people across all ages and stages of life laughing and dancing side-by-side!

And here is the best part: everything is taught on the night! Our brilliant caller explains every single dance step-by-step. Everyone learns together and any tripped-up steps are just part of the fun and laughter.

Parents, help your teens leap over the fear of the unknown and join in on the excitement. We just know our third annual Ceilidh is going to be an unforgettable, joy-filled night to remember!



ANNUAL MCS
CEILIDH
2026

JULY | 25 | 2026
7:00 PM

WHO: Years 10 to 13, MCS Alumni, Staff and Spouses, and Board Members

RSVP: by Thursday 2nd July to
admin@manukauchristian.school.nz

COST: Entry will cost \$25
Please pay to the following account
12 3615 0014533 00
(ref: your name, ceilidh)

77 Rogers Road, Manurewa

General Items

Parents in Prayer - PIPS

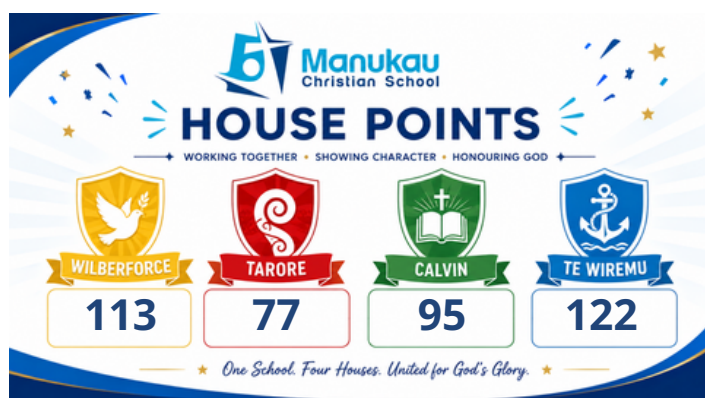
We are so pleased to have a group of parents who faithfully meet to pray for our school each Friday morning at 8:30am (except the last day of term). These times of prayer are a wonderful opportunity to bring before the Lord our students, staff, families and the many activities that make up school life.

We warmly invite any parents who would like to join us. Whether you are able to come regularly or just occasionally, your prayers and fellowship would be greatly appreciated as we seek God's blessing and guidance for our school community.



Year 7-13 Bake Sale

Thank you for supporting our senior students as they fundraise towards the cost of their Year 13 Graduation evening. Any support or donations will be gratefully received. We anticipate another sausage sizzle this term - dates to be advised.



Yummy Fruits

Please continue to collect Yummy Fruit stickers. You can download a sticker sheet from the website and return completed forms to reception. Each year we receive sports equipment for students to enjoy during lunchtime play.



Snack Packets

Parents of Primary School students, please consider snipping your snack packets, pre-opening yoghurt suckies and starting to peel fruit (bananas, mandarins) when packing lunchboxes. This helps students build independence and frees up our Duty Teachers to focus on safety. Thank you!



Lost Property

Despite our best efforts, we still have a sizeable collection of lost property waiting to be claimed.

If your child has misplaced a jumper, jacket, lunchbox, drink bottle or any other item this term, please encourage them to check the lost property area. Parents are also welcome to have a look when dropping off or collecting their children.

Any unclaimed items at the end of the term will be donated to charity, so please come and rescue your belongings before they find a new home!



Matters for Prayer

Give thanks for

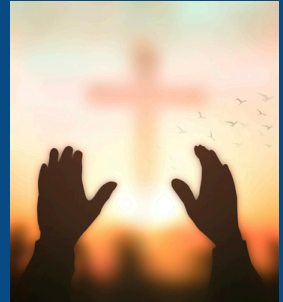
- the provision of Mrs Suné van Rhyn to cover Mrs Vaea who is going on maternity leave in Term 3
- God's faithful provision for **39 years** of Manukau Christian School, particularly in providing mission-minded staff like Mrs Oosterbeek who invest in the school for the long term

Please pray for

- our school community, that we will continue to grow in wisdom and specifically for this year's focus of discernment
- for well-being and blessing on Mrs Harris and Mrs Vaea, who are going on maternity leave in Term 3
- for God's wisdom and provision of resources as we consider when and where to begin a new satellite school

Scripture

¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray without ceasing,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Term Dates 2026

Term 1	29 Jan to 2 Apr 2026
Term 2	20 Apr to 3 Jul 2026
Term 3	20 Jul to 25 Sep 2026
Term 4	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.

