



Newsletter

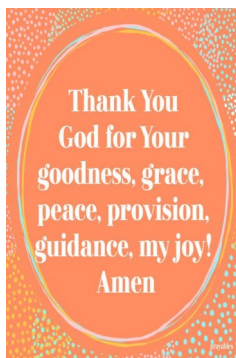
Term 4, Week 2, 2025

16 October 2025

Manukau Christian School

Dear MCS Friends and Families,

Welcome to Term 4! It's wonderful to see the warmer weather arriving — hopefully with less rain and more opportunities for our students to enjoy being outdoors. This is always a busy and exciting time of year as students work hard to complete their courses and bring another year of learning to a close.



In the weeks ahead, we look forward to several special events that mark the culmination of our school year. Our **Thanksgiving Services** give us the opportunity to pause and reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness to our school community throughout 2025. Our **Graduation Dinner** will be a time to celebrate our leavers, to thank God for His work in their lives, and to entrust them to His care as they step into new seasons of study, work, and service.

It's a full term ahead, but one that reminds us again of God's abundant provision and the privilege we share in shaping young people to serve Him in every sphere of life.

When “Extremism” Means Thinking Differently

A couple of weeks ago, *The Press* published an article expressing teacher concern over a rise in “student extremism” in New Zealand schools. A report, presented to the PPTA — the secondary school teachers' union — painted a worrying picture. As I read through the piece, I wondered what sort of extremism prompted such alarm. What I found was surprising.



The examples included young students calling themselves “Trump boys,” and others submitting assignments arguing for traditional wife roles,

ACSNZ
ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE
SCHOOLS in NZ INC

 **CAMBRIDGE**
International Education
Cambridge International School

Member of

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
OF NEW ZEALAND

From the Principal's Desk

is that all education disciples. It shapes loves, loyalties, and moral imaginations. What's really going on is progressive resentment of any challenge to its authority. These teachers are not really concerned about extremism; they are uncomfortable that some students dare to think differently from them.

I would suggest that the real extremism in our society comes not from students who hold traditional views, but from the progressive ideology that dominates our institutions. The beliefs now treated as 'normal' in public education — moral relativism, radical individualism, and the rejection of God's design for gender and family — would have been considered extreme in any other era of history.



These are the ideas that have reshaped our culture and unsettled our young people, not a handful of boys who admire Donald Trump or girls who value marriage and motherhood. Many parents, and their children too, are increasingly frustrated at being told what they are permitted to think and speak. They can see that a line has been crossed — that education is being used to enforce conformity to a worldview they do not share.

So, we are beginning to see the early signs of a pushback. The anxiety voiced in this report is not really about student extremism at all, but about the fear within the liberal progressive establishment that its long-held ideological monopoly is starting to crumble.

After decades of progressive dominance, society is not better off than it was. We are poorer — not only economically, but morally. Families are fractured, our young people are confused, and many are longing for moral clarity, for family, stability, and purpose.



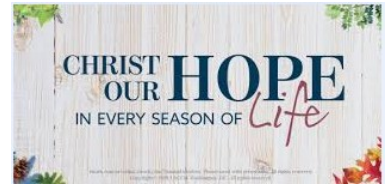
As Christians, we ought to pray that this moment will not simply see the pendulum swing politically, but that it will lead to genuine repentance — a returning to Christ and to God's design for humanity, for family, and for society. Only such a renewal can bring true peace and blessing to our nation.

At Manukau Christian School, we **are** ideological — and we are not ashamed of that. We believe that societies flourish only to the extent that they honour Christ as King and live under His law. We openly acknowledge that we are a Christian school:

From the Principal's Desk

we teach the Scriptures and aim to disciple students under the lordship of Christ so that they may go out into society living with Jesus as their King, in obedience to His Word, loving their neighbours, and serving faithfully in every sphere of life.

We do not hide our convictions or claim neutrality. We teach our students to think critically, to weigh competing worldviews, and to discern truth through the lens of Scripture. In a world filled with ideological confusion, we believe this clarity — rooted in Christ — offers young people true freedom, confidence, and hope.



We are equipping our young people with a Christian worldview so that they can live wisely and courageously in a confused age and, by God's grace, help turn the hearts of this nation back to Christ. It is, after all, *righteousness that exalts a nation*. Teachers, parents, and students alike are part of this shared mission of cultural renewal — forming young men and women who will contribute to the good of New Zealand under Christ's kingship.

If the PPTA's report means that young people who seek to follow Christ — upholding a Christian sexual ethic and the traditional biblical vision of marriage and family — are now classed as “extremists,” then perhaps that tells us more about our times than about our students. Our hope is that such faithfulness will one day be seen not as extreme, but as normal — the mark of a nation returning to God. Until that day, may we stand firm, raise up courageous young men and women, and trust that God will bring blessing upon our students, our families, and our nation.

Jonathan Anderson Joins MCS



We are delighted to announce that Jonathan Anderson will be joining our teaching team in 2026. Jonathan is the former CEO of Kip McGrath Pacific Region and brings with him a wealth of experience in education and leadership. He will be teaching Year 7–8 Mathematics, Year 9 History, Year 7 Physical Education, and AS History. We're excited to welcome Jonathan to the MCS community and look forward to the valuable contribution he will make to our Junior High and Senior History programmes.

Kind Regards,
Scott Kennedy *B.A./B.Sc., Dip.Tch*

Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13 October Checkpoint English 1	14 Checkpoint Math 1 Checkpoint English 2	15 Checkpoint Math 2	16	17
20	21	22 Stardome Trip Y3-6	23	24 Katherine Young Visit
27 School Closed LABOUR DAY	28	29	30	31 Book Character Day Y1-7
3 November	4	5	6	7 Primary Assembly 8:40am High School Assembly 1:20pm
10 Year 8-10 Exam Week	11	12 Botanic Gardens Visit Y1-2	13 Graduation Dinner	14
17	18	19 Tiritiri Matangi Trip Bike Day Y5	20 High School Thanksgiving 6:30pm Y11-13	21 Last Day Y11 High School Assembly 1.20pm
24 Y12-13 Trip	25 Y12-13 Trip	26 Y12-13 Trip	27 Y12-13 Trip	28
1 DEC	2	3	4	5 Primary Thanksgiving Y1-4
8 Reports home Y8-10	9 Last Day Y8-10 Assembly 9.30am High School Thanks- giving Y8-10 1.00pm	10 Primary Thanksgiving Y5-7	11 Reports home Y1-7	12 Primary Assembly 8.40am School closes 12.30pm

General Notices

Enrolments for 2026

Thank you parents for your support of the school throughout this year. Your endorsement and word of mouth recommendation continues to help the school with a thriving roll. We give thanks for the substantial waiting list, with demand exceeding available places. Please also ensure that you complete an application form for younger siblings should you wish to enrol them in the future.

If you intend to withdraw your child, a full term's notice is required. If you do not notify the school a term in advance, then you are liable for the following term's fees, whether your child attends or not. If there is any possibility of withdrawal, please speak to Mrs Oosterbeek in the office.

General Notices

Thank You

Every year Bible League is incredibly grateful for the passion and commitment students and staff show in support of the Run4Bibles event. This year is no exception. Students and families raised \$19,193.70—that's 2,741 Bibles. Phenomenal effort! Thank you for furthering Christ's kingdom work and for enabling bible-less families in South Africa to hear and read the Word of God.



Thank you also for supporting our senior students in their Graduation fundraising efforts. The sausage sizzles were thoroughly enjoyed, and the Quiz Night was a great success.

A huge thank you to our dads for the enthusiastic support at the Father's Day celebration toward the end of last term. We give thanks for all the dads and father figures in our community who support, encourage, and inspire the next generation. Your role matters deeply—and your impact lasts a lifetime.



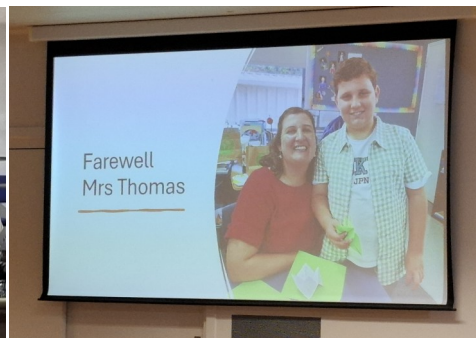
Hats for Terms 1 and 4

Your primary school child must wear a hat during morning tea and lunch time in Terms 1 and 4. To purchase a school hat or cap, these are \$20 each. Please name your child's hat.

School Happenings

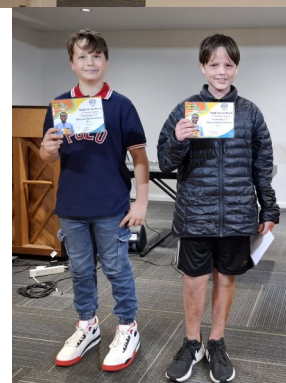
Term 3 Primary Assembly

Our last assembly was a bittersweet one, as we bade farewell to Mrs Nadine Thomas, Ruben and Emma before their move to Australia. Mrs Thomas was presented with a special gift on behalf of the school, as well as tributes from Mrs Van Niekerk and Mr Kennedy.



Congratulations to our top Run4Bibles Fundraisers for 2025: Joshua Wang (Year 8) \$1005; Daniel Slabber (Year 5) \$937; and Matthew Slabber (Year 7) \$901.

Congratulations to all our students who received Principal's Awards!



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Year 7

House Point Totals—end of Term 3

WILBERFORCE	CALVIN	TE WIREMU	TARORE
184	173	168	249

School Happenings

Year 1—Sharing

Our Year 1 students brought in a special item from home and proudly shared it with their classmates. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to practise speaking in front of others—building confidence in communication starts early at MCS.



Year 2 Art

Our beautiful world, as seen through the eyes of our Year 2 students, is truly inspiring. Their careful attention to detail—capturing mountains, water, rainbows, and more—shows how their creativity and maturity continue to grow.



Years 1 and 4 Combined Art

At MCS we try to nurture a familial culture. Here the Year 1 and 4 students were paired up to create artwork together—a wonderful opportunity for the older children to guide and encourage their younger buddies, and for the younger ones to feel supported and inspired.



School Happenings

Year 5—Science



Year 5 students have been learning about sound. They've discovered how sound travels in waves and explored how we can make sounds louder by changing vibrations and using amplifiers. It's been a fun, hands-on topic that's really got them listening closely to the world around them.

Year 5—PE



A healthy mind needs an active body. Students had a great time putting their accuracy and coordination to the test during PE, rising to the challenge with plenty of smiles and determination.



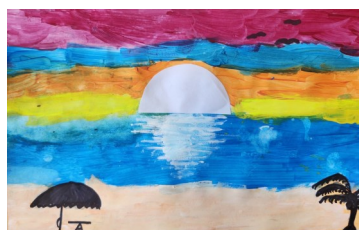
Year 6—Swimming

Even though swimming during the cooler months can be a little chilly, our students always look forward to their lessons. Taking part in this programme over four years provides a strong foundation of water confidence and safety skills. We are very grateful to John Walker – Find Your Field of Dreams for making this wonderful Community Swim programme possible.



School Happenings

Calendar Art



Your child's artwork makes wonderful keepsakes in the way of calendars, cards, diaries, sketchpads and mousepads. Please return your form and money by 24 October to receive your order in time for Christmas.



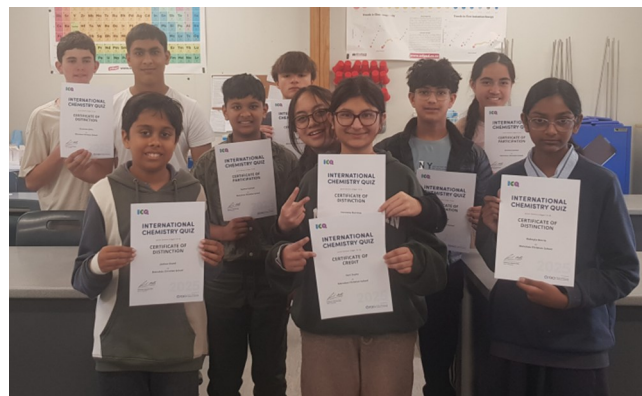
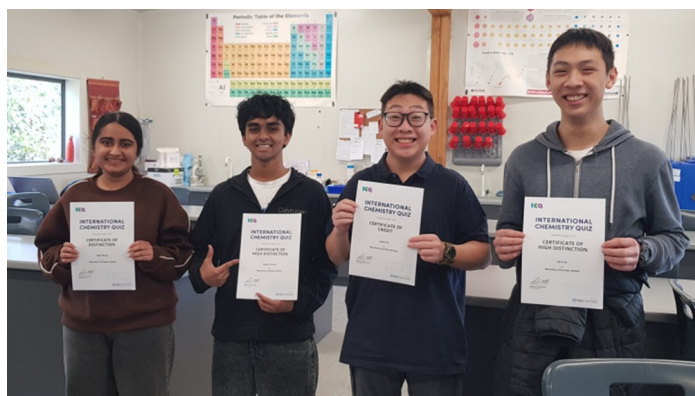
International Chemistry Quiz

We recently received results from the 2025 International Chemistry Quiz, hosted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. The quiz is an opportunity for teachers to gauge their students' understanding and acts as a platform to encourage students to pursue studies and careers in chemistry. This works well alongside our Cambridge curriculum, giving our students opportunities to compete on the world stage.

Congratulations to our students for achieving in their divisions:

High Distinction (top 10% of students regionally): Ezra Liu, Rohan Prasad

Distinction (the next 20% of students regionally): Opal Ahuja, Mahavir Mandalia, Joshua Chand, Aaryaveer Jakku, Harmony Maireroa, Makayla Morris, Veer Bhatia, Saranya Seth.



School Happenings

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Joshua Wang (Year 8), who recently competed in the New Zealand Open Table Tennis Tournament and won a bronze medal in the Combined Doubles D Grade. We're proud of Joshua's dedication and skill—great effort.

Community Notices

Miscellaneous

- ♦ Please collect **Yummy Fruit** stickers. Sweetango, Lemonade and Ambrosia stickers, can be redeemed for double points in school sports gear.
- ♦ Please add bric-a-brac and clothing items to our Clothing Bin

PIPS—Parents in Prayer

Parents, please assist us in educating and discipling students through prayer. Prayer moves mountains and changes hearts. Our weekly prayer meeting is held on Fridays at 8:30am in the church, except for the last day of term.

Lost Property

We seem to accumulate tremendous amounts of clothing, especially as temperatures get warmer and students discard clothing. Please check the tub in the junior foyer area—your child may have left an article of clothing at school.

Health and Safety

Please take every step necessary to ensure your child practises good hygiene. Please report any hazards you notice to the office.

Please also be considerate and mindful of others as you use the carpark. Do not park in the disabled carpark unless you are displaying a permit. Please do not drive against the direction of the arrows: we have a **one-way** traffic system. Thank you.

Matters for Prayer



Give thanks for

- A strong and stable teaching team as we look ahead to 2026.
- The provision of a new teacher, Jonathan Anderson, who will be joining our Junior High School teaching team next year.
- God's faithfulness and financial provision throughout this year — even amid the significant cost and challenge of our ongoing building project.



Please pray for

- Our Year 10–13 students as they sit their Cambridge examinations — for calm minds, diligent preparation, and confidence in the Lord.
- Our teachers, as they manage a full and demanding term with Thanksgiving Services, Graduation, and the marking of exams and tests.
- That Manukau Christian School would remain faithful in upholding its mission and vision, and that God would continue to bless the work of our hands.

Scripture

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” *Prov 13:34*

Term Dates 2025 and 2026

2025—Term 4

Year 1-7 6 Oct to 12 Dec

Year 8-10 1 Oct to 9 Dec

Year 11 1 Oct to 21 Nov

School finishes at 12:30pm on the last day of each term.

2026

Teacher Only Days: 27 and 28 Jan 2026

Term 1: 29 Jan to 2 Apr (10 wks)

Term 2: 20 Apr to 3 Jul (11 wks)

Term 3: 20 Jul to 25 Sep (10 wks)

Term 4: 12 Oct to 9 Dec (9 wks)

Year 7-10: 7 Oct to 8 Dec

Year 11: 7 Oct to 20 Nov

