# Newsletter

Term 4, Week 3, 2026 | 27 October 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Term 4 has begun with a rush and a roar. Year 6 and Year 10-13 students are in the midst of external examinations and our school has hosted many private candidates sitting Cambridge examinations. We've had pleasing feedback from the parents of private candidates which I thought I would share with you. One parent said, *"I also wanted to say how much [my child] has appreciated being part of the prayer time ahead of exams. This is an important part of who we are too, and it means a lot...to enter an exam space where prayer is part of the experience — not just something we do in the car beforehand, but an opportunity to pray alongside others. That's been really valued. Thank you for the thought and care you're putting into this*." Another parent said, *"My compliments to the school - I've found the whole atmosphere and the behaviour of the pupils extremely good. If I return to teaching, this is the kind of school that I would seek out to become part of."*



This sort of feedback is very encouraging to us as a school. While academic excellence is very important to us, we are just as interested in creating a Christian culture that stands out as something good and different to what is out there. We seek to be a haven where students can learn in a safe and caring environment, where Christ is openly honoured in what we teach and how we live together.

While we have established a safe and effective learning culture, we know there is still work to do. We want our school to keep growing and improving. One area we have identified for particular attention is developing leaders.




As I wrote in our last newsletter, our mission is to develop responsible and courageous disciples who apply Christ's kingship to all of life. We want to see wise, strong and humble young men and women whose character and competence equip them to serve others and exercise influence wherever God places them. We also hope to see them take on significant responsibilities in our communities and our nation, taking seriously the call to reform New Zealand so that it once again acknowledges Jesus Christ as King.



We want our students and parents to see an MCS education as much more than a ticket to a good university or a sought-after course. We are preparing the next generation to take their place in the Great Commission, making disciples and seeing God's kingdom extend into every area of life. When we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking God to imprint the reality of heaven upon the earth, so that here too His authority is honoured and His will is obeyed. We want our students to take that prayer seriously and, by His grace, become part of His answer to it.

That requires deliberate preparation. We need to help our students see themselves as people who have a responsibility for what happens around them. We want them to notice what needs doing, take initiative and follow through, rather than wait for someone else to act. In this way, they can learn to bring about change for the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom.

So if that is our goal, what changes do we need to make in our school to see it happen? One pattern we see in Scripture is that God entrusts greater responsibilities to those who have been faithful with little. We therefore want to begin by providing small opportunities for our students to take responsibility and serve the school community.

This term, we have begun introducing a range of opportunities across Years 7–13. These include organising and running handball or chess competitions, reading with younger students, helping a teacher, assisting with primary school duties, helping run assemblies, looking after sports equipment and organising lunchtime sport for younger students.



We believe these opportunities will give our students valuable experience of taking responsibility. They will learn the importance of planning, keeping their word, solving problems when things go wrong and working together to achieve a goal. Our teachers will provide guidance and support, but the aim is for students to take increasing ownership. As they learn to be faithful in these smaller responsibilities, we hope to see them become ready to take on more.

## Staffing changes for 2027

At the end of this year, we will farewell two valued members of our teaching staff, Mae Savill and Jonathan Anderson. We are also delighted to welcome three new teachers for 2027.

**Farewelling Mae Savill and Jonathan Anderson**

Mae joined us in 2024 as a first-year teacher, although you would hardly have known it. From the outset, she brought professionalism, diligence and a willingness to give the job her all. She has strengthened our IGCSE History programme, with some very pleasing results reflecting her hard work and the effort of her students. Mae is moving to Ballarat, Australia, to take up a teaching position at Ballarat Clarendon College. This is a wonderful opportunity for her to continue developing her teaching and we are grateful for all she has contributed during her two years with us.

Jonathan joined us this year, teaching AS History and Maths. His breadth of knowledge and varied life experiences have enriched his classes and his stories have made him a favourite with many students. Before joining us, Jonathan spent 12 years as CEO of Kip McGrath Education Centres, overseeing 100 centres across New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa. He will be moving to England to take up a new opportunity leading a large tutoring franchise network, drawing on that considerable experience.

We will miss Mae and Jonathan and pray for God's blessing on them as they take these next steps.




## Welcoming our new teachers

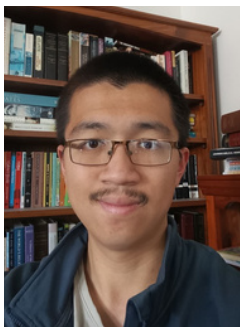
We are delighted to have appointed three first-year teachers to join us next year: Ming Chen, Joseph Wilkinson-Mackie and Jack Austin.

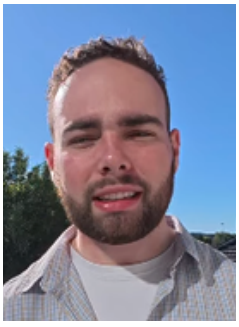
For **Ming Chen**, this will be a return to familiar ground. A former MCS student, Ming came to faith in Christ through the ministry of the school. It is a particular joy to see him returning to help teach the next generation. Ming excelled across the curriculum during his time here and brings wide-ranging interests and academic strengths. Next year he will tackle IGCSE and AS History, alongside some junior high school teaching in Science and Geography.

**Joseph Wilkinson-Mackie** joins our high school team with a degree in Music Composition and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching. He will teach Bible and Worldview courses and help us develop singing across the school, including a singing programme in the primary school. We are looking forward to giving our students more opportunities to sing together and putting Joseph's musical gifts to good use.

**Jack Austin** joins us from Laidlaw College, where he has been completing his Bachelor of Education. He will teach Maths and History in the junior high school. Jack brings considerable experience working with young people through Christian camps, youth ministry and sport, as well as having had opportunities to serve in Nepal, Cambodia and aboard Mercy Ships in Sierra Leone. He has a particular interest in pastoral care and mentoring, and we look forward to his contribution both in the classroom and in the wider life of the school.

We are thankful to God for bringing these young men to MCS. Each brings different gifts and experiences and we look forward to supporting them as they begin their teaching careers.





*Left to right: Ming Chen, Joseph Wilkinson-Mackie and Jack Austin*

## Satellite School Update

The Board is continuing to explore opportunities for a satellite school, including possible locations, suitable premises and how it would be financed. We remain committed to establishing a satellite school in the medium term, while recognising that a step of this size requires careful planning and sound judgement.

We do not want to rush ahead simply to get something started. We are prayerfully seeking God's leading as we investigate the options and wait for a suitable location and venue to become available. Please join us in praying for wisdom and for God to open the right doors.

## Graduation and Thanksgiving Services

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to our Senior Graduation mid November and the Thanksgiving Services – special occasions to celebrate our students' achievements, reflect with gratitude on God's faithfulness throughout the year and give thanks for the many blessings He has bestowed on our school community. We look forward to celebrating these meaningful milestones together.

*Scott Kennedy*

Principal

# Enrolments for 2027

We are very grateful for the way our families continue to support and endorse MCS. Many of our enrolment enquiries come through your recommendations and word of mouth – thank you for speaking so positively about our school.

We currently have substantial waiting lists, with demand exceeding available places. A couple of important reminders:

**Younger siblings:** Please make sure an application form has been submitted for any younger siblings you hope to enrol. Sibling priority can only be considered once an application is on file.

**Thinking of leaving?** A full term's notice is required for withdrawals. If there is any possibility your child may not be returning, please speak with Mrs Oosterbeek as early as possible, even if your plans are not yet confirmed. This helps us greatly with forward planning and offering places to families on our waiting lists.

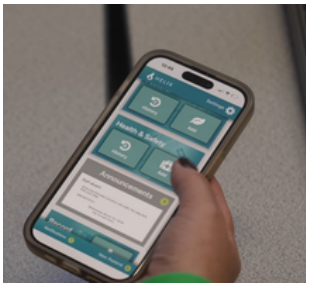
Thank you again for your continued support of MCS – we truly appreciate it.

# Dates to Remember

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **19 October 2026**<br>8:40am Primary Assembly<br>**Y12-13 Study Leave continues** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| **26**<br>**LABOUR DAY**<br>**School Closed** | **27** | **28** | **29** | **30** |
| **2 Nov 2026**<br>8:40am Primary Assembly | **3** | **4** | **5**<br>Surf to School Y1-6<br>Trustboard Meeting | **6**<br>Book Character Day Y1-6 |
| **9**<br>8:30am High School Assembly | **10** | **11** | **12**<br>Graduation Dinner | **13**<br>Tiritiri Matangi Y13 |
| **16**<br>8:40am Primary Assembly | **17** | **18** | **19**<br>Auckland Zoo Y1-2<br>Bike Skills Y5<br>6:30pm Y11-13 Senior Thanksgiving | **20**<br>Y11-13 Last Day |
| **23** | **24**<br>Y13 North Island Trip starts | **25** | **26** | **27**<br>North Island trip finishes |
| **30**<br>8:40am Primary Assembly | **1 Dec 2026** | **2** | **3** | **4**<br>1:30pm Y1-3 Thanksgiving Service |
| **7**<br>1:30pm Y4-6 Thanksgiving Service | **8**<br>8:30am Final High School Assembly<br>1:30pm Y7-10 Thanksgiving Service<br>Y7-10 Last Day | **9**<br>8:40am Final Primary School Assembly<br>**School finishes at 12:30pm** | **10** | **11** |

# Absences

Parents, please contact the school if your child is away for the day rather than waiting for one of our admin team to follow up. You can use the Helix App or email Mrs Fickling on reception@manukauchristian.school.nz Thank you for helping us in this way.



# Thank You

**Run4Bibles – Thank You**

Once again, we are incredibly grateful to our parents and wider school community for your wonderful support of our Run4Bibles event. Together, our students and families raised an amazing $18,930. That is 2,704 Bibles. What a phenomenal effort. Thank you for partnering with us in furthering Christ's Kingdom and helping to provide Bibles to families in South Africa who would otherwise not have access to God's Word. It is indeed a privilege to see our school community working together to help others hear and read the good news of the Gospel.

**Calendar Art – Thank You**

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Calendar Art fundraiser by purchasing your child's artwork. We hope you enjoy these special keepsakes. Thanks to your support the school will receive a rebate of $857.15, which will go directly towards purchasing resources for our classrooms. Every contribution makes a difference.



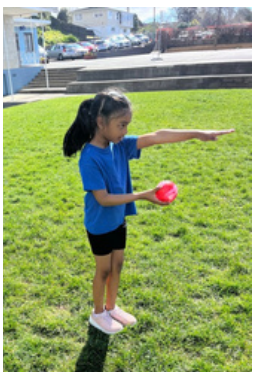
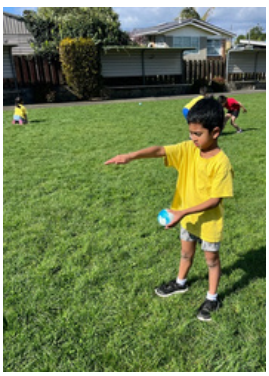
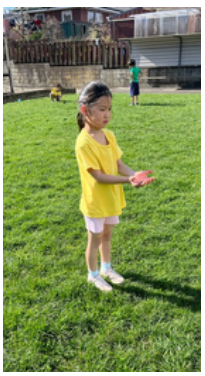
*Beautiful artwork from Year 3 that has been printed into a mouse mat and a diary.*

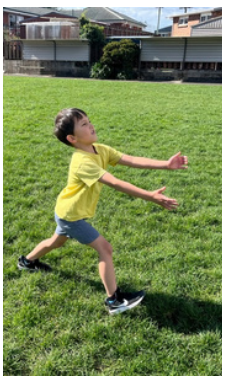
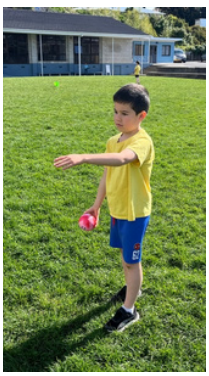
# Clothing

Please help us reduce the amount of lost property by naming your child's clothing and belongings (especially lunch boxes and drink bottles). Each term, we are left with a large number of jackets, jerseys and other items that we are unable to return because they are unnamed. A clearly written name makes it much easier for us to reunite lost items with their owners. A few minutes spent labelling can save a favourite jacket! All unclaimed items are donated to charity.

# Year 2 PE

Our younger students have been having fun learning the basics of throwing and catching a ball. They have been practising aiming, throwing with control, and getting those hands ready to make a catch! It's wonderful to see their coordination, confidence and skills developing – all while enjoying being active together.

# International Chemistry & Art Competition

We are delighted to celebrate the success of three of our Lower Secondary Science students whose artwork has been shortlisted for the final round of the International Chemistry & Art Competition.

Congratulations to:

- Wenny Wang – Junior Category (9–12 years)
- Guinevere Maney – Senior Category (13–15 years)
- Cassandra Gerritson – Junior Category (9–12 years)

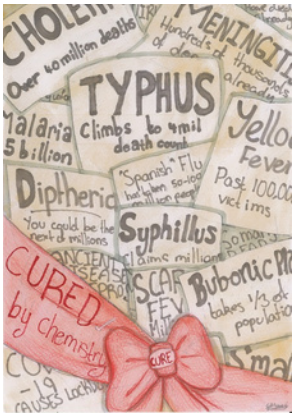
What a wonderful achievement and a creative way to bring Science and Art together. This year, the competition also includes a People's Choice Award, with a $500 AUD cash prize awarded to the artwork receiving the most public votes. We would love our MCS community to get behind Wenny, Guinevere and Cassandra. You may vote once for each artwork you would like to support, so be sure to look out for our students' entries in the online gallery. Let's support our young scientists and artists and get voting.

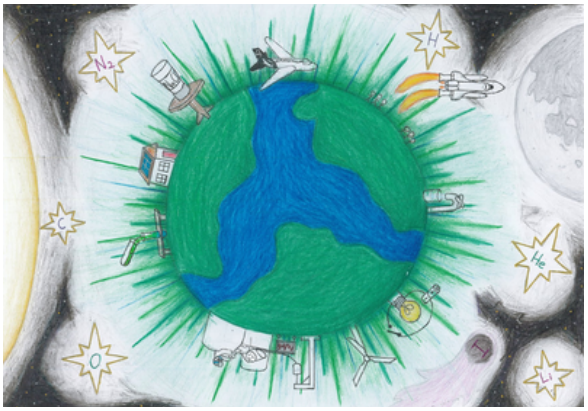
Congratulations girls – we are very proud of your achievement and wish you all the best for the final round.



INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY & ART COMPETITION





# Year 6 Cambridge Checkpoint Exams



Our Cambridge Checkpoint examinations are an important part of maintaining the strong academic standards we value at MCS. As internationally benchmarked assessments, they provide an independent measure of student achievement and allow us to evaluate how effectively our students are progressing within the Cambridge curriculum.

Checkpoint results provide valuable information for students, teachers and the school, helping us identify strengths, areas for growth and the effectiveness of our teaching programmes. They also support the academic integrity of MCS, ensuring that our assessment of student progress is not based solely on internal measures, but is tested against recognised external standards.

# Primary Assembly

At the most recent Primary Assembly, Mrs du Plessis challenged students to think about what makes a trustworthy leader. Ryder was tasked with choosing a treat for Ryan, who had to trust him to make a good choice – Ryder made an excellent choice by chosing the chocolate!

Students were encouraged to put trustworthy leadership into action this week by doing something good when nobody is watching – not for a reward, but simply because it is the right thing to do. This is a great reminder that true character is often shown in the choices we make when no one is watching.

Congratulations to students who received Virtue Awards this fortnight.





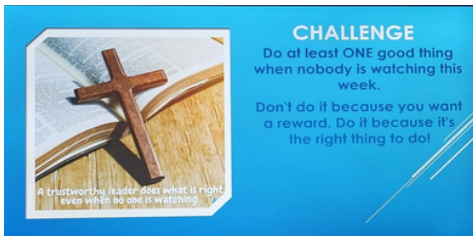








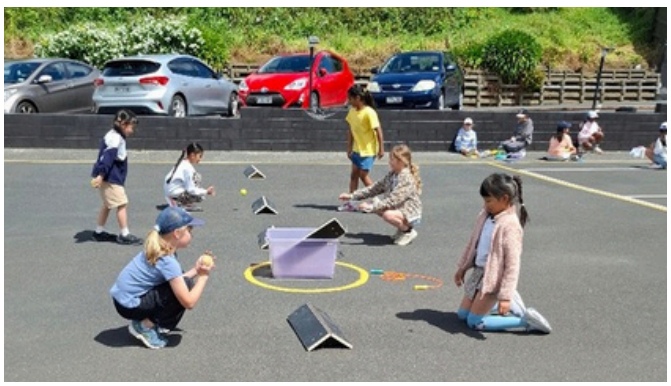





# Year 4 Gutter Ball

Our Year 4 students enjoyed playing ball at lunch time using the newly made gutter boards. They worked together, practised teamwork and problem-solving, and encouraged one another as they took on the challenge.

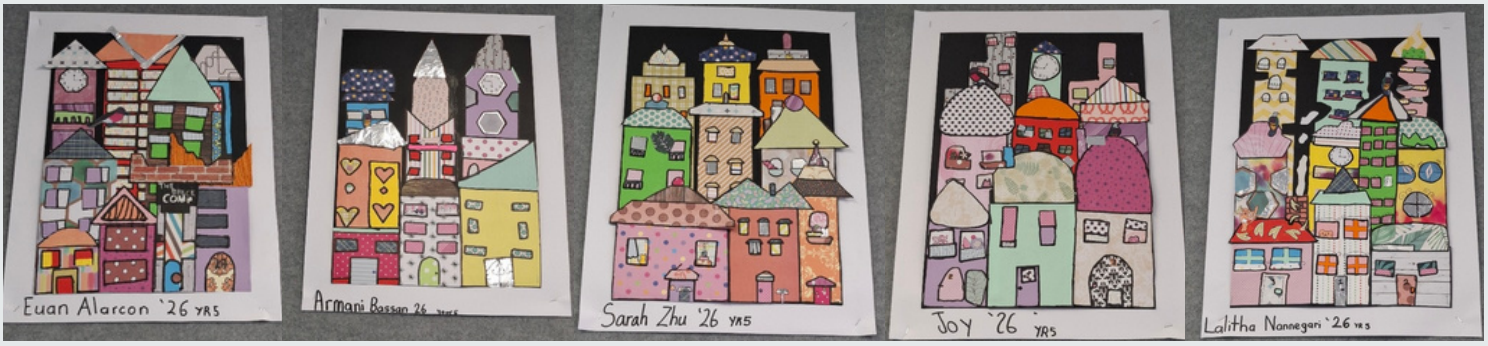




# Year 5, 6 and 7 Art

What a wonderful showcase of creativity, skill and artistic ability. Students' artwork is a sight to behold, with an impressive range of techniques and attention to detail on display. Year 5 students used pattern, colour and perspective to create their Hundertwasser collages, while Year 6 students' collages were based on Matisse: fish, flowers and cats. Year 7 and 8 students used mixed media inspired by Matisse's Goldfish 1912. Well done to our talented young artists.

## Year 5




## Year 6



## Year 7



# Year 5 Skipping

Our younger students have been busy mastering the art of skipping. It may look simple, but skipping is a wonderful way to develop balance, coordination, rhythm and confidence. There has been plenty of concentration as feet learn the pattern – step, hop, step, hop – and plenty of smiles when it all comes together!









# High School - Nerf Wars




There was plenty of action, strategy and laughter as our students took part in Nerf Wars. Dodging, aiming, teamwork and a little friendly competition made for lots of fun and extra points for each house.








# Disability Sports Lessons



The aim of our disability sports lessons was to help students develop a greater understanding of the challenges and adaptations involved in playing sport with a visual or hearing impairment.

Students worked in mixed-ability teams, with some experiencing simulated impairments while others played without them. They used modified goggles, with sections taped over or blurred, to simulate visual impairments, and earplugs and earmuffs to simulate hearing impairments.



Throughout the lessons, students were challenged to discuss and adapt the rules, strategies and communication methods used in each game to ensure everyone could participate. They did a fantastic job of engaging with the activities, reflecting on their experiences and providing thoughtful feedback on how different adaptations helped make the games more accessible and inclusive.

It was great to see the students working collaboratively and recognising the importance of adapting sport to enable people of all abilities to participate.

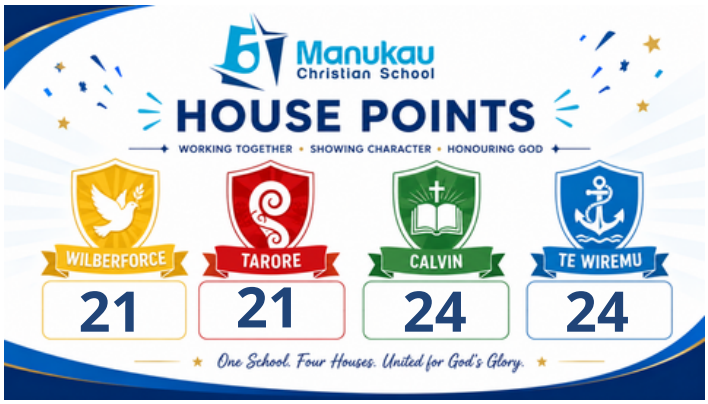








# House Points




Covenant Kids Preschool

**Enrol Now for 2027**

Spaces are limited next year at Covenant Kids Preschool (located at the sourthern end of the school site). They offer a fantastic school readiness programme to give your child the best possible start. If you are planning to enrol your child, don't wait—contact the Administrator, Christine, on 09-269-1048 or email covenantkids@mcctrust.nz to grab an enrolment pack early!

# Matters for Prayer




### *Give thanks for*

- God's provision of three young men joining our staff team in 2027
- the many private candidates and their families who have been onsite to experience our school community

### *Pray for*

- Mae and Jonathan as they begin new positions overseas
- the roll out of our leadership opportunities, that God will be raising up and developing faithful disciples whom He will use for His glory in New Zealand
- the Board as it considers where and when to commence a satellite school. Pray that God would give the Board wisdom and provide the necessary resources.

## Scripture

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
– ***Matthew 6:10***

# 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) |

# Term Dates 2027

| | |
|---|---|
| **Term 1** | 2 Feb to 9 Apr 2027 |
| **Term 2** | 27 Apr to 2 Jul 2027 |
| **Term 3** | 19 Jul to 24 Sep 2027 |
| **Term 4** | 11 Oct to 8 Dec 2027 (Y1-6) |
| | 11 Oct to 7 Dec (Y7-9) |
| | 6 Oct to 19 Nov (Y10-13) |

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

Manukau Christian School