



# Newsletter

Term 1, Week 2, 2025

13 February 2025

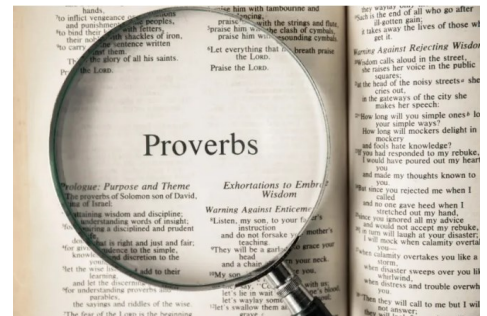
Manukau Christian School

Dear Parents and Friends of Manukau Christian School,

Welcome to 2025 at MCS! We are so pleased to have the opportunity to serve our parent community in training courageous disciples of Christ who are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to see God's kingdom grow here in New Zealand.

As we begin a new school year at MCS, I would like to share with you an important biblical truth that shapes our approach to education and character development. It comes from the book of Proverbs—a book from the Bible that is filled with practical wisdom given from a father to a son, which offers insight into a well-ordered life for us all.

- 11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,
- 12 for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.
- 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,
- 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.
- 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
- 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.
- 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
- 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. **Proverbs 3:11-18**



## 1. Discipline is Love

Our culture often views discipline as restrictive, but Scripture teaches that it is an expression of love. Proverbs reminds us that the Lord disciplines



CONTACT US  
269 1050  
027 2118 110



CAMBRIDGE  
International Education

Cambridge International School

ACS NZ

ASSOCIATION OF CAMBRIDGE  
SCHOOLS IN NZ INC

those He loves, just as a loving parent disciplines their child. At MCS, we believe that firm but loving discipline is essential for our students' growth. Walking quietly between classes, using manners, standing aside at doors, being on time, and taking responsibility for their homework are small but significant ways that students learn discipline. These habits shape character and prepare them for future success.

As parents, you play a crucial role in this process. Supporting the school's expectations at home reinforces the values we teach in the classroom. When children experience consistency between school and home, the message goes that much deeper into their hearts and helps them develop resilience, respect, and self-discipline—qualities that will serve them well for life.



## 2. The Blessings of Wisdom

Discipline is not just about correcting behaviour—it is about imparting wisdom. The Bible tells us that wisdom is more valuable than silver or gold because it brings true prosperity. Wisdom leads to peace, honour, and a well-ordered life. However, children do not naturally desire wisdom. They are often drawn to what is easy or entertaining rather than what is good and true. That is why discipline is necessary—by it we help them recognize the greater blessings of wisdom over the fleeting pleasures of folly.

We see the difference that discipline and high expectations make. In schools where structure is weak and expectations are low, students struggle to reach their potential. New Zealand's education system faces challenges, with declining literacy and numeracy rates. Many young people are entering adulthood unprepared for the demands of life because they were not trained in discipline and perseverance. At MCS, we are committed to offering a different path. We maintain high academic and behavioural standards not out of harshness, but because we want the best for our students.



## 3. A Shared Commitment to Excellence

As we embark on a new year together, I encourage you as parents to partner with us in this vision. By working together—parents, teachers, and students—we create an environment where wisdom flourishes. When children see that both their school and their home value discipline,

responsibility, and excellence, they thrive.

Let's make 2025 a year where we reaffirm our commitment to high standards, loving discipline, and the pursuit of wisdom. May our children grow in knowledge and character, experiencing the blessings that come from living according to God's wisdom.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a year of growth, learning, and God's continued blessing at MCS.

## ***PE Dress Code***



At MCS, we have a dress code for PE which allows our students to take part effectively in these lessons. Students are required to wear shorts and their house t-shirt as well as sneakers. Ensure you know what days your child has PE, and as we begin the year, remind them to have their PE gear in their bags on those days.

## ***Car Park Expectations for a Safe Start to the Year***

As we begin the new school year, it's a good time to remind everyone—especially new families—of the rules and expectations for using the **primary school car park**. These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of our students, particularly our youngest ones, and to maintain a smooth and efficient traffic flow.

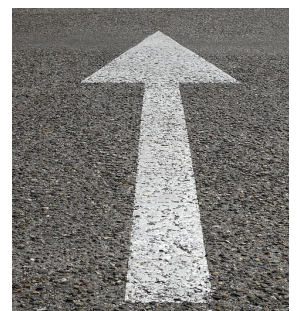
### ***1. Who May Use the Car Park and When***

- **Before 3:15pm:** only parents or caregivers picking up students in **Years 1 to 3** may park in the primary school car park. These vehicles **must display a green car park permit**. If you do not have a permit, please talk to us in the school office.
- **After 3:15pm:** other parents may enter and use the car park for pickup.

This rule is in place to help protect our youngest students, so that they do not have to walk outside the car park to be picked up.

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

- All vehicles must **follow the one-way arrow system** at all times. **Under no circumstances should anyone drive against the arrows.**
- If no parking space is available, continue moving through the car park as per the flow of traffic and **circle around** until a space opens up.



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

**Do not park in non-designated areas**, even temporarily. Parking outside of marked spaces **causes congestion, disrupts traffic flow** and creates unsafe conditions for children.

### *4. Follow Staff Instructions*

School staff will be on duty in the car park to **help manage traffic and ensure student safety**. If a staff member gives you an instruction, please **follow it without argument**. They are there for the **safety of the children**, and their directions should be respected.

### *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**, rather than frustration or impatience.



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

By following these guidelines, we ensure that our car park remains a **safe, efficient, and positive environment** for our school community. Thank you for your cooperation!

## *Outstanding Academic Results from 2024*

Over the Christmas holidays, we received our **Cambridge examination results**, and we are delighted to share an update with our school community.

At Manukau Christian School, we are unapologetically results-driven because pursuing academic excellence is a core part of our mission. But what does that actually mean?

Academic excellence is not just an abstract goal—it is something measurable, something we constantly evaluate to ensure that we are fulfilling our mission and providing the best education possible. One of the most effective ways to assess this is through external Cambridge examinations. These internationally recognized exams provide an independent and objective measure of how well our students are achieving.



Unlike school-based assessments, which can sometimes be subjective, Cambridge exams give us an honest reality check. They help us ask the critical questions: is what we are doing working? Are our students truly achieving at the high standard we aim for?

These results are not about chasing numbers for their own sake. Rather, they reflect our commitment to excellence, our dedication to our students, and our faithfulness to the mission God has given us. Clear targets provide focus, accountability, and motivation—ensuring that we do not settle for mediocrity but instead continue to strive for the very best for our students.

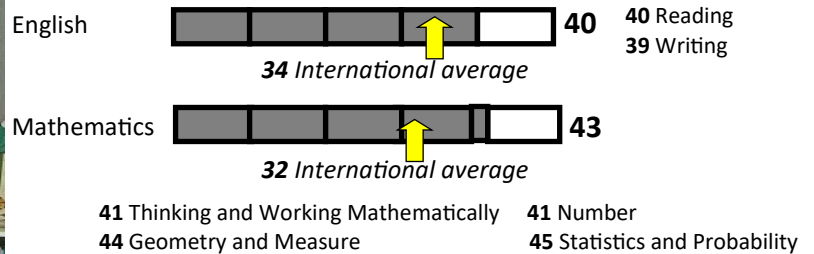
Cambridge assessments at every level—Primary Checkpoints in Year 6, IGCSE at Year 10 and 11, AS, and A-Level at Year 12 and 13—are like monitoring our school’s pulse. They help us see where we are thriving and where we need to grow. This process of reflection and refinement is essential to our vision 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 43** (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 40**, surpassing the international average of 34 and coming **just shy of the outstanding range** (41–50). Well done to all our students.



#### Cambridge Primary



*Congratulations to the following students who achieved the maximum score of 50 in Mathematics.*

*Front row: Summer Li, Isabella Dass, Guinevere Maney  
Back row: Jovel Ong, Andrew Zhang, Cyril Leung*

*Guinevere Maney and Jovel Ong also received a perfect score of 50 in English. Well done.*

### *IGCSE Results (Years 10 & 11)*

- Just over 40% of all IGCSE results were A or A\*, a fantastic achievement reflecting our students' dedication and hard work.

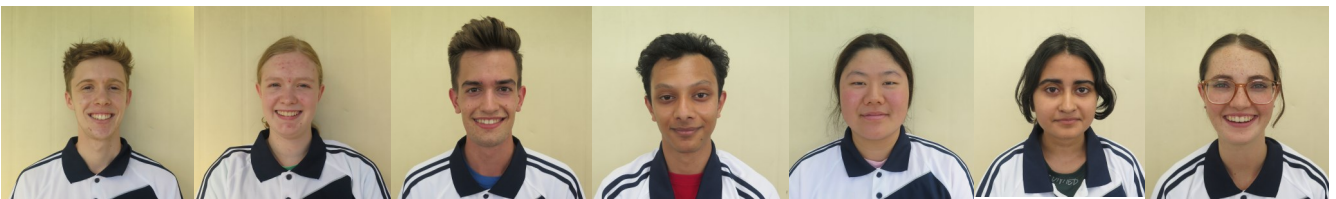
### *AS & A-Level Results (Years 12 & 13)*

- **Thomas Fryer**, one of our 2024 house leaders, achieved an outstanding *two A\* grades* and set a new school record with **400 points**, just short of the maximum 420 (the next step up from 400 in the system is 420).
- **100% of our Year 13 leavers attained university entrance**, marking the **third time since 2019** that we have achieved this milestone.
- **44% of AS and A-Level results were B grade or above**, reflecting the strength of our senior students' academic performance.



*Thomas Fryer*

Students who scored A's in AS or A level subjects were Thomas Fryer, Jessica Goodwin, Matthew Shallard, Vinayak Sharma, Mia Wang, Opal Ahuja, Ruby Carter, Oswald Kuik, Rohan Prasad, Sahil Sandhu, Samardeep Singh, Serena Wang and Ezra Liu.



We are incredibly proud of all our students and teachers for these achievements. Their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence continue to uphold the high academic standards at Manukau Christian School.

**Scott Kennedy**  
*Principal*

## Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
17 PAT testing	18 PAT testing	19 PAT testing	20 PAT testing Meet the Teacher 6.30 to 7.30pm	21 PAT testing
24	25	26	27	28 Assembly 8.40am Years 1 to 7 Water sports 1.30pm Years 1 to 7
3 March	4	5 Trustboard Meeting	6	7
10	11 Waitawheta Tramp Year 9	12 Waitawheta Tramp Year 9	13	14 Assembly 1.20pm Years 8 to 13
17	18 Eye on Nature Year 6 (to be confirmed)	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28 Assembly 8.40am Years 1 to 7
31	1 April	2 St John First Aid Year 7 1.15pm	3 Parent Teacher Interviews <u>Classes finish 12.30pm</u>	4 Letterland Day Year 1
7	8	9	10	11 Assembly 8.40am Assembly 9.20am <u>School closes 12.30pm</u>
<u>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</u>				

## Keeping in touch

We use the *Skool Loop App* to send through instant notifications. Please download this app and make sure that you select the correct year level for your child. If you downloaded the app last year, you may need to change the year level you subscribe to (Settings  $\Rightarrow$  Subscribe to Groups).



Please request to join the **MCS School Community** Facebook page where we post photos and notices. You will be asked a few questions on joining. Please also notify us of **any change of email address**—this is vital to ensure you receive school correspondence. Thank you.



## Meet the Teacher Evening 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025



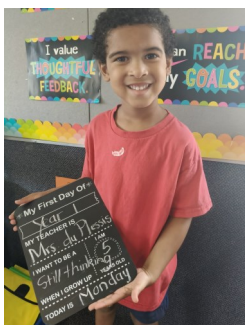
Please come along to the *Meet the Teacher* evening on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February from 6.30pm to 7.30pm**. Meet in the church at 6.30pm for a 10 minute welcome from Mr Kennedy, and at 6.45pm you will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom. There will be **two identical sessions** from each teacher—one at 6.45pm and one at 7.10pm. Each 20 minute presentation will be an opportunity for teachers to convey their expectations for your child and the role that parents play in equipping their child for success.

Building relationships early and understanding classroom routines will help your child and ensure that we can work together with you for the benefit of your child. Later in the term we will be hosting Parent/Teacher interviews.

## First Day of School

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.

The biggest change is for our Year 1 students—moving up from preschool to 'big' school means a lot of work! Our littlest students have settled in very quickly.





## ***House Leaders 2025***

We are pleased to announce our House Leaders for 2025. Their responsibilities include mentoring and serving the school community.

**Wilberforce:** Priscilla John

**Tarore:** Ezra Liu

**Calvin:** Elijah Paddison

**Te Wiremu:** Keira Shallard



## ***Student Teachers***

We are delighted to have two student teachers, Sonja Bruyns and one of our school parents, Nigel Zheng, elect to do their practicum at our school, offering them opportunities to work in both a Christian Independent school as well as gaining experience in the Cambridge curriculum.

## ***Building Progress***

Great progress is being made on the new classrooms and toilet blocks! This is the largest project we've ever undertaken at once, and we're excited to see it taking shape. As we navigate the challenges of space and finances, we would truly appreciate your prayers and support. Thank you for journeying with us.



## ***Attendance***

Please notify the office if your child is going to be absent. You may use the Skool Loop App, or email [absences@manukachristian.school.nz](mailto:absences@manukachristian.school.nz). If your child is not here, we will phone you to find out where they are. Please be mindful that your child is not continually late or continually being collected early in the afternoons.

**Ministry of Education standards regard regular attendance to be at 90%.** That means no more than one day off every two weeks. Students in high school are also expected to have regular attendance before they will be permitted to sit exams. Lengthy holidays in term time may be wonderful opportunities to visit family overseas or have a break, but this can have a detrimental impact on achievement.

## Letters to Year 1 students

At the end of last year students in Year 4 wrote letters about school life. They also included advice to new Year 1 students starting this year.

When I started year one, I had no friends, so I asked someone named “Jared” to be my friend and he said “Yes”, so we played lots. Then we asked a boy named “Jonty” to be our friend, and he said “Yes”, then the rest of the year went well.

Dear Year 1’s—you should always listen to your teacher and have amazing handwriting and be kind and thoughtful.

***Eben Schellingerhout***

I’ve spent four years at MCS. I learnt things I never knew before. My favourite subject is art. You can create colourful pictures and inspiring portraits. Even though life is not always easy and things go wrong, we can still count on God to help us through tough problems. Because nothing is impossible with God, because he is our King, loving, Almighty saviour come down from heaven to free us from Satan. Since we are God-opposers, we sin against him every day. We can’t make ourselves worthy, only Jesus can.

Dear Year 1’s—so I hope I have inspired you to put your faith in Jesus Christ and he will be with you all the days of your life. God bless you.

***Julia Prakasa***

My funniest moment was when Jonty tried to do a volley in football and landed (but he wasn’t hurt). My saddest moment was when I started at school and I didn’t have any friends. My best moment was when I didn’t have any friends and Eben and Jonty came to me and said “Do you want to play with us?” My craziest moment was when I found out my Year 4 teacher was South African.

Dear Year 1’s—Don’t stop, keep going.

***Daniel Slabber***



In all the four years that I’ve been at school, I’ve had lovely friends and teachers. They all cared for me. I really enjoyed the art, the work and the trips.

Dear Year 1’s:  
 Make sure to finish your homework  
 Finish your lunch  
 Respect everyone  
 Listen to your teacher  
 Be thankful  
 Don’t throw rubbish on the ground.

***Hazel Viridi***

## ***House-keeping Matters***

### **1. Opening Hours**

- The administration office opens at 8:15am and closes at 3:15pm.
- Doors to classrooms in the primary school open at 8.30am. Supervision of primary children begins at 8.15am. Please collect your child by 3.15pm.

### **2. Handbook for Families**

- All families will have received an updated copy via email. Please read through this book with your child and return the slip to school.

### **3. Late Students**

- Please sign your child in at the office if they are late to ensure that they are not marked as absent.

### **4. Contacting your child's teacher**

- Please email the office (admin@manukachristian.school.nz) if you have a message for your child's teacher, or write a note in their homework book.

### **5. Dress Code**

- Please ensure that you are familiar with the dress code of the school (see Handbook for Families). This includes acceptable clothing, hairstyles, and the wearing of jewellery.

## ***Around the School***

### **Yummy Stickers**

We collect yummy fruit stickers to obtain sport equipment for our school. Please continue to collect these stickers for the school. Completed sheets can be handed in to the office. Download a form [here](#). Thank you for collecting stickers last year!



### **Clothing Bin**

There is a clothing bin at the senior carpark end of the school for used items of clothing and bric-a-brac.

### **Lost Property**

All items that are found are placed in the blue lost property bin in the junior foyer area. Unclaimed items are disposed of at the end of each term. Please remember to name your child's clothing, especially hats. Thank you.

## ***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. If you are interested, please email Maria Shallard on a.m@outlook.co.nz, or come to the office on a Friday morning after you have dropped off your child.



## MATTERS FOR PRAYER



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

- Our new teachers, Miss Savill and Mrs Harris
- Good roll numbers, in particular the number of senior high school students
- The blessing of 100% University Entrance amongst our leavers
- Progress on our building project



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

- Teachers as they get to know their students and begin the year's learning journey
- Our practicum students, Sonja Bruyns and Nigel Zheng
- Good financial stewardship

## Scripture

*“My son, do not despise the LORD’s discipline  
or be weary of his reproof,  
for the LORD reproofs him whom he loves,  
as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Proverbs 3:11-12

## TERM DATES 2025

<b>Term 1</b>	3 Feb to 11 Apr 2025
<b>Term 2</b>	28 Apr to 27 Jun 2025
<b>Term 3</b>	14 Jul to 19 Sep 2025
<b>Term 4</b>	6 Oct to 12 Dec 2025 (Years 1 to 7) 1 Oct to 9 Dec (Years 8 to 10) 1 Oct to 21 Nov (Year 11)

Optional: Leavers Trip: 24-27 November 2025  
School finishes at 12.30pm on the last day of each term

