



Trinity Schools Trust Board

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Trinity Schools are Hadlow Preschool, Hadlow School, Rathkeale College and St Matthew's Collegiate School

3rd December 2019

Dear parents and caregivers,

Trinity Schools Trust Board – a year in review – 2019

As 2019 draws to a close, it would be easy to let the closure of the Trust House Theatre / Rathkeale Auditorium dominate our memory of the year. The closure of this much used space undoubtedly challenged staff and students at Rathkeale and across Trinity, however, what stands out is the creative thinking and pragmatic attitude that everyone involved took to making the best of a difficult situation. It was, as has been more eloquently said by others before, not the temporary closure that defined us, but rather our response to it.

In terms of the Auditorium, while behind the entrance doors is darkness and quiet, across the Trinity Schools staff, in particular Brian James, Rob Blackett and Rathkeale Principal Martin O'Grady, and a host of specialist engineers and property experts, work has been steadily progressing to develop the necessary detailed plans for Council consent and construction. We anticipate that work will commence in February 2020 with completion planned towards the end of the year - final timelines and pricing yet to be approved.

The capital investment and improvement action plan has made considerable progress this year. At Hadlow we created Junior Hub breakout spaces, an outdoor classroom and reroofing of the Homestead and Administration buildings. At Rathkeale we demolished various outbuildings and water towers, extended the carpark, reroofed School House and upgraded the interior of the School House Residence. At St Matthews we completed the Hampton Boarding House extension, refurbished the changing facilities at the swimming pool and upgraded the kitchen in the dining hall.



Hadlow Junior Hub
Breakout Spaces



Rathkeale - School House – keeping our
musicians dry



St Matthew's – Hampton
House Extension

For our pre-schoolers, they have had a wonderful time wearing high vis vests and earmuffs as work to extend and earthquake strengthen their learning environment takes shape. We will celebrate the re-opening of this much improved facility at the start of the 2020 school year. It was heartening to see how these young learners embraced their temporary environment in the Hadlow School hall and made friends with the builders. The builders too should be commended for their willingness to interact with the children, even assisting in the classroom with Lego construction techniques.



Creating an environment where our students can learn to the best of their ability is about more than bricks and mortar, it's about feeling welcome, comfortable and supported in our schools. We have been working with representatives from a cross section of our Trinity family of schools to develop a Trinity Inclusivity policy which will link closely with our Anglican values. The Special Character Committee has taken on responsibility for the initial research and development of the policy. It is about creating a culture and environment that enables young people to feel that they are safe and belong.

At a practical level, the Trinity Schools Trust Board has this year funded a new service for students at Rathkeale and St Matthews. For nine hours per week a school nurse is available to students and staff. After an initial settling in period this service is now well attended. Ready access to medical support on site is seen as a huge benefit at both schools.

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care commenced in 2019. The Inquiry will investigate abuse in children, young people and vulnerable adults in care between 1950 and 1999. This scope includes students who attended Hadlow Preschool, Hadlow School, Rathkeale College and St Matthew's Collegiate School between 1950 and 1999. We will do everything we can to assist the Commission to fulfil its purpose of bringing cases of abuse to light and to bring about healing to those who suffered abuse.

As with any year, we farewell some staff and welcome others. Hadlow Chaplain and RE teacher Philippa Young leaves us to focus her energies on the Featherston Parish and other Anglican Church based initiatives. Philippa has made a huge contribution to the Anglican Special Character at Hadlow, as was evident in the recent report received from the Anglican Schools Office.

Mannie Marara has recently been appointed to replace Mrs Young and will be residing with his family onsite in the Hadlow House – welcome Mr Marara.

Dale Walterhouse, Rathkeale Chaplain, left us in the middle of the year to pursue another career – he left with our best wishes and thanks for a job well done. Reverend Ben Arcus returned as Acting Chaplain and has recently been appointed to the permanent role. Rev. Arcus was Rathkeale Chaplain immediately before Mr Walterhouse and has been a parish minister in Wellington for just over three years.

At TSTB Board level we farewelled David Hancock, Vanessa Dudley and Matt Bassett, all of whom have made a considerable contribution during their time with us. Cath de Groot joined us during the year and we anticipate further appointments early in 2020. We thank TSTB Board members and BoT Board members for their time and contributions during the year. We also thank all our TSTB staff for their work and commitment during the year.

As the year drew to a close, it was wonderful watching 200 keen and eager Hadlow students sing in celebration of Hadlow's 90th anniversary to past pupils and guests, the most senior of whom attended the school back in the 1930s.

This year in review only touches the surface of the work that goes on largely behind the scenes. Thank you to everyone involved in our Trinity family for your efforts this year. God bless and have a safe and happy Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Beazley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Denise Beazley
TSTB Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Blackett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Blackett
Chief Executive Officer