



17 December 2021

Trinity Schools Trust Board – a year in review – 2021

We are living in unprecedented times and the Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB) appreciates the dedication of the whole Trinity team during this second year of the Covid global pandemic. All of us have been challenged in different ways and yet we have continued to offer outstanding educational opportunities and care to our young people. Our students, parents and caregivers also deserve high praise for the way in which they have coped and adapted to the various challenges of 2021.

As trustees of the charitable trust that owns Hadlow Preschool and is the Proprietor for Hadlow Preparatory School, St Matthew's Collegiate School and Rathkeale College, TSTB is guided by its Trust Deed. We strive to ensure the Anglican special character of our schools is upheld for the benefit of staff and students, and that our property and facilities are safe, well maintained assets that we can all be proud of. We work closely with each of the Boards of Trustees and the Preschool to understand and meet their needs where we can.

Our strategy is focused on Best Self and how we enable each student and member of staff member across Trinity to achieve this. This year we increased our focus on special character and explored how to embed a common special character thread for students as they journey through the system.

Property improvements

The reopening of the Trust House Auditorium at Rathkeale College (following completion of the \$3.8m essential earthquake strengthening) has returned the centrepiece of the school back to staff and students. How wonderful it was to reinstate the annual Trinity Schools Chapel Service in August, which brought together all the students from Hadlow, St Matthew's and Rathkeale.

In July the long-awaited upgrade of the Repton Boarding House at Rathkeale commenced. With a budget of \$3.27m, we anticipate completion in early 2023. The programme has been planned in such a way that half the dormitories will be occupied by students while the other half are closed for construction work. Once completed, this boarding house will be a similar standard to Cranleigh Boarding House.



Dormitory upgrade at Repton House



St Matthew's Lower Classroom Block

The internal earthquake-strengthening and refurbishment of the St Matthew's Lower Classroom Block (or Intermediate Block) started in October and will be completed in early 2022. The remains of Doug Davidson's 'yellow' room can be seen above for one last time!

A full resurfacing and remarking of the Hadlow Quad was completed in early 2021. The old seal was well past its best and large puddles formed when it rained. The new surface now provides a quality play area for students.



Contractors laying the new surface for the Hadlow Quad

As a result of significant vision and fundraising from the Rathkeale Friends Association and the Rathkeale Old Boys Association we purchased a 6.25 hectare block of land that borders the entrance to the Rathkeale College site (below). The land will form part of the 'Rathkeale Landlab' and the bush will be carefully managed to encourage new native growth.



The recently purchased 6.25 hectare block at Rathkeale College

Whilst the larger property jobs are the more noticeable evidence of progress, many smaller jobs occupy our property team and contractors each week. Smaller projects this year have included ablution upgrades on all sites and continued improvements to lighting, heating and acoustics. Each school now has a dedicated Learning Support Coordinator space, funded by the Ministry of Education. Our vehicle fleet now includes a quad bike at Hadlow and two new minivans at our colleges. Water and wastewater infrastructure have also required focus. The turf lighting was replaced at St Matthew's and a popular playground, funded by the St Matthew's Friends Association, was installed. Energy savings on all sites have been achieved through the deployment of new units that allow remote operation and programming of heat pumps – delivering improved comfort levels for staff and students.

TSTB staff

Our team has had another busy and successful year providing centralised financial services while also juggling alert levels and new requirements such as the vaccine mandate. In October the government announced mandatory vaccination for the wider education workforce, including staff, contractors, service providers and volunteers. At short notice we worked hard to obtain the necessary evidence to ensure our schools could continue to operate under the new requirements, which are designed to protect students, staff and the broader school community.

During the year we farewelled Jeanette McMenamain and Sarah Macaskill from our Finance Team and wished them well in their new roles.



In November, TSTB staff combined with Hadlow and Preschool to support Shoebox Christmas Aotearoa.

TSTB Board

TSTB comprises a small group of trustees who volunteer their time and expertise over and above their 'day jobs'. Special thanks to Matt Hood (Deputy Chair), Keri Titherington, Cath de Groot, John Kirkup, Amy Williams, Matt Boggs and Rev. Pete Watson. Their work behind the scenes often goes unnoticed.

In 2020 our Board Chair, Denise Beazley, retired from the Board after completing her six year term. Denise held the position of Board Chair for four and a half years and dedicated many hours of her time for the benefit of the Trinity Schools. We record our sincere thanks for this remarkable service.

Following the retirement of Archdeacon May Croft in December 2020, we welcomed Rev. Pete Watson from St Matthew's Church to the Board as the Bishop's representative. Our Anglican Special Character remains in safe hands and will continue to be the cornerstone of our schools.

Sadly, Richard Baker left the Board in September after five years of service, which included appointment to the St Matthew's and Rathkeale BoTs and chairing the TSTB Finance and Property Committee. His participation in our meetings is missed and we record our gratitude for the time and effort Richard contributed.

Looking forward

In August our school leaders heard from Rev. Anne van Gend who observed that today's children and teenagers have had their roots torn away from them, the 'tumbleweed generation'. Our Anglican faith has much sanctuary to offer – solid, fertile ground where deep roots can form. We are all designed to be connected to each other, to our past, to creation and to God.

As we all strive to be our best selves, flexibility, resilience and sustainability will be key attributes in 2022 and beyond. Let us give thanks for the year that has been and look forward to another year with plenty of highlights for all.

Shalom – may God's peace surround and guide us all.



Lisa Rossiter
TSTB Chair



Rob Blakett
Chief Executive Officer