



## Principal's Message

When our child(ren) enter the final term of their current school preparing to go to another, as parents we begin the grieving process and begin to contemplate what our children will be losing; the loss of the younger years, the loss of current friendship groups, the loss of the well-known community. We move through the process and contemplate what our children will be gaining; new growth and opportunities, new friendships and a new community to be a part of. The best advice we can provide you with through this change process is to be excited and future focused, be the assuring voice for the change and help your child(ren) to become excited at all of the opportunities that lie in store. A great way you will be able to do this is by looking through our ākonga/student electives below and together choosing some amazing opportunities that will inspire them to grow into personal fullness. More details are below.

Like many of you, I am watching the development of our school site with a keen interest and pleased to reassure you that everything is on track for the first day of our school year on 7th February when there will be a pōwhiri for all new students and staff. In term 4, we will provide you with a detailed calendar of key dates and events so that you can see the opportunities that you will have to come into school and be able to plan ahead for the school year in 2024.

During the school holidays we will move into October; the month of the Rosary. I encourage families to explore this Catholic prayer over the next month. When St Ignatius was beginning his mission he prayed for Mary's help at the icon of Our Lady of Montserrat, praying for the intercession of Mary is a common practice within our tradition. Before our Feast day Mass on 31st July, accompanied by our Director of Religious Studies, Matthew Grevatt, and Head of Arts and Technology, Stacey Harrison, we prayed for our Heavenly Mother's help for those who had a ministry. You can find more details about the Rosary from the Auckland Catholic Diocese [here](#).

Enjoy some quality family time over the coming break and we look forward to seeing you at our transition events during term 4. Many Blessings.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam  
Dean Wearmouth

## Student Writing Competition

On Thursday the 7th of September the winners of our Nacho News Writing Competition, La Reina Weale and Madison Lowther, visited St Ignatius for a school tour.

They were very excited, as were we, to see the significant progress of our beautiful buildings.

Mr Michel Butler who is the Property Portfolio & Development Manager for the Diocese, led us around the site and showed the families the plans for Stages Two and Three as well.

We were delighted by the number and calibre of writing entries but it was the student's enthusiasm and use of descriptive language that distinguished their work from the others. They were given the opportunity to see the progress first-hand and to write an update for you all to read.

Please see their articles below.

## Site Progress

### Nachos News Winner – La Reina Weale (Year 8 2024)

For those who have already driven past Burt Road in Drury and have seen the campus grounds, it may just look like a big white tent in the green countryside. As someone who has seen the campus up close, I can assure all that there is much more under that big white plastic wrap.

The school is four storeys high and built with thousands of small red bricks. We visited the school hall which will be temporarily used as a gymnasium and a basketball court. The hall is next to the chapel, the music/recording room and the highly anticipated tuck shop. In front of the tuck shop will be the school courtyard with tables and chairs for students to hang out and have lunch.

The classrooms will be in the main building. This is stage one of the build with two more stages to come, including the permanent gymnasium. We went up to the top storey of the main building and the view of the countryside was very impressive. I'm excited to see the view from the classrooms. Behind the school will be a number of sports fields for all to enjoy.

Once the school is open it's sure to look phenomenal—something for us to all look forward to.

### Nachos News Winner – Madison Lowther (Year 8 2024)

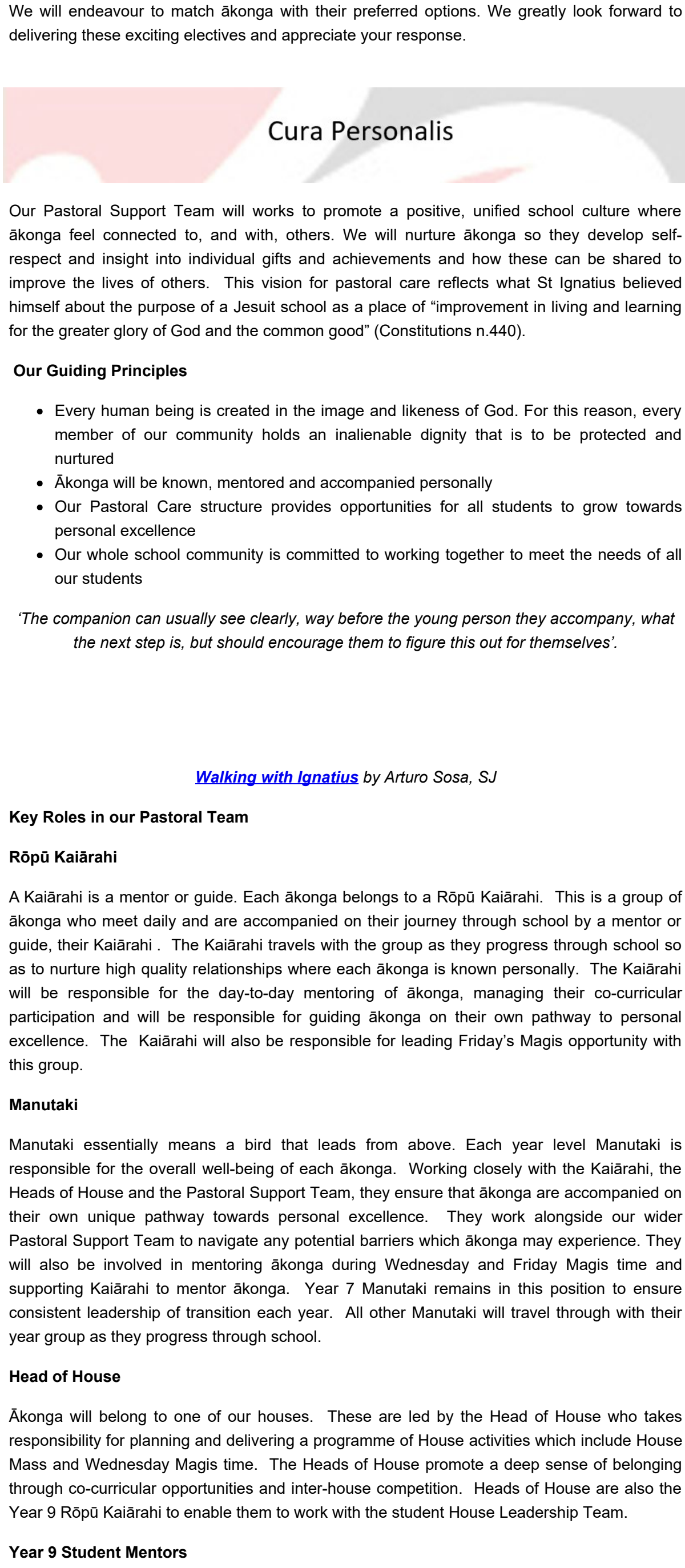
On the 7th of September, I was elected to go to St Ignatius for a sight tour.

Upon arrival, we were instructed to put on hard hats and helmets and after that, we went on a site tour with our guide Mr Butler. Lots of the brickwork had already been done around the site making the walls and windows more noticeable. The entire building was environmentally ventilated by a series of levers and doors that can open when it gets too hot in summer and it was made so the whole building got sunlight all year round.

Halfway through our tour, we were shown the hall. The hall was around 8 meters tall and connected to the chapel and music studio. There were rooms for recording, practising and teaching in the music studio. We were told that in Level 1 there was the Admin Office, Library and RE Department but there were 4 Levels in total but we don't know much about the other levels.

The entire construction was going through 3 Phases. The first phase was to get the main building in the hall while Phase 2 was working on the driveway, courtyard and other buildings and Phase 3 was working on the gymnasium and the other side buildings that are going to be built in a few years. But right now Phase 1 and part of Phase 2 are in place, Phase 3 will come in later years.

St Ignatius will be ready and amazing for next year.



## Teaching and Learning

This week we continue to explore our Academic Programme. In this Newsletter we explore the English and Literacy Faculty.

Through upcoming newsletters, we'll introduce you to all of our Faculties and unveil the plans that are currently in motion for teaching and learning, offering a closer look at the exciting developments taking place within our educational community at St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College.

### Faculty of English and Literacy

#### Empowerment through Literacy: English at St Ignatius of Loyola College 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa, greetings to you all.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to detail our vision for the English and Literacy Faculty at St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College. As teachers of Literacy, we are dedicated to nurturing curiosity alongside a love of language, literature, and communication.

We will embed strong foundational skills in English, including spelling, grammar, and purpose. Simultaneously, we will cultivate the art of effective communication through composition.

English is not just a subject; it stands as the keystone upon which all other subjects and life skills are built. It's the language of expression, critical thinking, and human connection.

In Years 7, 8, and 9, we are proud of the beautiful texts on offer for our ākonga, ranging from the classics to the modern gems; championing New Zealand storytelling as our unique tāonga. The content of these texts will allow our ākonga to access ideas that inspire them, identify protagonists they can relate to, and be motivated by rich vocabulary from a diverse range of cultures and worlds.

Accompanying each term's study our Year 7 and 8 ākonga will complete a tailored spelling and grammar study to equip them with the essential skills for higher learning. Our Year 9s will enjoy the first of many Shakespearean films with a contemporary retelling of Romeo and Juliet.

We will study novels, biographies, studies, poetry, editorials, letter writing, filmmaking, and oratory. We will research inspirational New Zealanders and authentic topics such as sustainability and advocacy opportunities for social justice issues.

We have scheduled visits from local authors to inspire our ākonga, with plans to extend invitations to others, enriching their learning experiences. We are committed to providing an English education that is broad, rich, cohesive, and local. It will align with the refreshed curriculum whilst being engaging and challenging.

We will participate in extra-curricular English-based activities such as the Franklin Schools speech competition, the Franklin Schools Pasifika speech competition, Debating, the coveted Pompallier Shield and Nacho News Journalism.

The English Faculty will be an environment where language comes alive, where writing becomes an art, and where learning is an exciting journey. We look forward to accompanying your children on this rewarding path of growth and discovery. If you feel that you can help, support or contribute to the English Faculty then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Hartland

Head of Faculty: English and Literacy.

### Ākonga/Student Electives – ACTION NEEDED

To enhance the academic programme for 2024, ākonga/students can select from a range of co-curricular electives to engage, stretch and inspire their own passions and interests. These electives will be held in timetabled periods on both Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The range of activities are based on ākonga/student interests from enrolment and are a semester in length before a further choice can be made for terms 3 and 4.

Please see the attached document for an introduction and details of electives.

When you have reviewed these with your child(ren), follow the link below to select your TOP FOUR choices. Please complete this form by **9am Monday October 9**.

[Ākonga Electives 2024](#)

We will endeavour to match ākonga with their preferred options. We greatly look forward to delivering these exciting electives and appreciate your response.

## Cura Personalis

Our Pastoral Support Team will work to promote a positive, unified school culture where ākonga feel connected to, and with, others. We will nurture ākonga so they develop self-respect and insight into individual gifts and achievements and how these can be shared to improve the lives of others. This vision for pastoral care reflects what St Ignatius believed himself about the purpose of a Jesuit school as a place of "improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good" (Constitutions n.440).

### Our Guiding Principles

- Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God. For this reason, every member of our community holds an inalienable dignity that is to be protected and nurtured
- Ākonga will be known, mentored and accompanied personally
- Our Pastoral Care structure provides opportunities for all students to grow towards personal excellence
- Our whole school community is committed to working together to meet the needs of all our students

*'The companion can usually see clearly, way before the young person they accompany, what the next step is, but should encourage them to figure this out for themselves.'*

*Walking with Ignatius* by Arturo Sosa, SJ

### Key Roles in our Pastoral Team

#### Rōpū Kaiārahi

A Kaiārahi is a mentor or guide. Each ākonga belongs to a Rōpū Kaiārahi. This is a group of ākonga who meet daily and are accompanied on their journey through school by a mentor or guide, their Kaiārahi. The Kaiārahi travels with the group as they progress through school so as to nurture high quality relationships where each ākonga is known personally. The Kaiārahi will be responsible for the day-to-day mentoring of ākonga, managing their co-curricular participation and will be responsible for guiding ākonga on their own pathway to personal excellence. The Kaiārahi will also be responsible for leading Friday Magis opportunity with this group.

#### Manutaki

Manutaki essentially means a bird that leads from behind. Each year level Manutaki is responsible for the overall well-being of each ākonga. Working closely with the Kaiārahi, the Heads of House and the Pastoral Support Team, they ensure that ākonga are accompanied on their own unique pathway towards personal excellence. They work alongside our wider Pastoral Support Team to navigate any potential barriers which ākonga may experience. They will also be involved in mentoring ākonga during Wednesday and Friday Magis time and supporting Kaiārahi to mentor ākonga. Year 7 Manutaki remains in this position to ensure consistent leadership of transition each year. All other Manutaki will travel through with their year group as they progress through school.

#### Head of House

Ākonga will belong to one of our houses. These are led by the Head of House who takes responsibility for planning and delivering a programme of House activities which include House Mass and Wednesday Magis time. The Heads of House promote a deep sense of belonging through co-curricular opportunities and inter-house competition. Heads of House are also the Year 9 Rōpū Kaiārahi to enable them to work with the student House Leadership Team.

#### Year 9 Student Mentors

Year 9 ākonga will all serve as a mentor and be assigned to work in small groups with ākonga from the same house as them in Year 7 and 8. The purpose of the mentors will be to nurture positive relationships horizontally through the pastoral model, provide a system of peer support and accompaniment whilst at the same time as promoting student leadership.

#### Buses Update

Since our last update regarding transport the Ministry of Education have engaged us in a process of assessing ākonga eligibility with regards to assistance with transportation costs.

We hope to be able to provide further updates regarding what assistance will be provided at the start of Term 4.

#### Uniform Update

Uniform fittings will be available from Week 3 Term 4 onwards. Booking details will be sent out in the next newsletter.

## Business Opportunity

We would be interested in hearing from any local businesses who would be keen to explore the following business opportunities with us:

- running our school lunch bar
- providing catering services for school functions and events

If this sounds like something you would like to discuss with us please contact:

office@saintignatius.school.nz

## Special Character

At this Sunday's Mass we hear the parable of the landowner. It reminds us that everyone is welcome in the vineyard of faith, no matter what stage of life they are at. God treats both those who have been in relationship with Him all their lives the same as those who have joined recently. While this might upset some of us as it would seem unfair, Jesus wants us to hear how generous God is. As Christians, we are always striving to imitate God in all things including His generosity and this parable should make us reflect on how generous we are with others.

St Ignatius of Loyola was big on this generosity. He discovered that generosity towards others was a gift to God, as seen in his prayer for generosity below. At St Ignatius, we strive to form ākonga/students who are generous with their gifts and talents using them all for the greater glory of God. Included in this is being generous towards others in the way we interact, study and play. Today we ask God that he can help us to be generous as He is generous.



### Prayer for Generosity

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Lord,

teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you

as you deserve;

to give and

not to count the cost,

to fight and

not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labor and

not to ask for reward,

save that of knowing

that I do your will.

### Cantors/Singers Required for Dedication Mass 2024

Do you love to sing? Ākonga/students who are interested in helping with leading the singing for the Dedication Mass at St Ignatius in February 2024 are invited to contact Mr James Roberson, our Director of Liturgical Music, for a cantor training opportunity in Term 4, 2023. We are looking for individual singers who are confident and will be leading from a microphone as well as a small group of singers who will support in leading the hymns at a Dedication Mass. The cantor training will take place at St Patrick's in Pukekohe in Term 4, 2023 and will be a one day course on Saturday 18th November from 11am to 1pm. This will be an exciting opportunity to have an early insight into what our Liturgical Music Magis group will look like at St Ignatius in 2024.

Please email: [robersonj@saintignatius.school.nz](mailto:robersonj@saintignatius.school.nz)



### Ākonga/student Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we begin this new day at school, we gather with thankful hearts and hopeful spirits. Please grant us the ability to learn and understand (competence), the wisdom to make good choices (conscience), the kindness to support one another (compassion), and the determination to overcome obstacles (commitment). Bless our efforts as we strive to live out these qualities in our studies. Guide us in growing wiser and kinder each day.

Amen.

Breonna Johnson (Year 8 2024)