



# St Mary's College

*Catholic School for Girls – Year 7 to Year 13*

## Kia ora & welcome

Choosing a school for your daughter is one of the most vital decisions that you will ever have



to make.

**A**s Principal, and as a past pupil of St Mary's College, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to consider the benefits of an education in the tradition of Mercy for your daughter.

St Mary's College is a Catholic Integrated school for girls from Year 7 to 13. We offer a Catholic education delivered by superb teachers, wrapped up in a strong pastoral care network. The person of Jesus, the model of Mary, and the truth of the Catholic Church are at the heart of our school.

The Mercy philosophy of education seeks to empower women and girls to be leaders in our society and to be advocates for social justice. Ours is a respectful and inclusive environment with an impressive record of achieving outstanding academic results through a curriculum that is future focussed. We are creating critical thinkers and future leaders.

Our students are at the centre of all we do. We place importance on developing the whole person, and believe that all students, regardless of their background, have the capability to achieve excellence by reaching their potential. Our love of music is a special feature of our college and is reflected in our compulsory music programme for junior students. This is an environment where your daughter can be happy and safe, and where we recognise the importance of a strong parent-school partnership as essential for successful learning.

Our Mercy beliefs and values permeate life at St Mary's College. We offer the opportunity for your daughter to grow into a 21st Century woman of Mercy.

Yours in Mercy,

Bernadette Stockman, Principal





## About St Mary's College

"Everybody within the school community supports the Special Character of the school in theory and practice. Consequently the entire school community can be proud that St Mary's College is a Catholic College in the Spirit of Mercy". – Education Review Office (ERO)

### Our Mission

The Mission of St Mary's College is to provide a Catholic education in the Mercy tradition of love in action, and to prepare students for their role as Christian women in the world. The person of Jesus, the model of Mary and the truths of the Catholic Church remain always at the heart of College life. Of fundamental concern is the development of each student towards her full potential.

### Special Character in the Tradition of Mercy

"The school's special character, founded in the Roman Catholic faith and the Mercy Values of compassion and social justice, is clearly reflected in school practices." – Education Review Office (ERO)

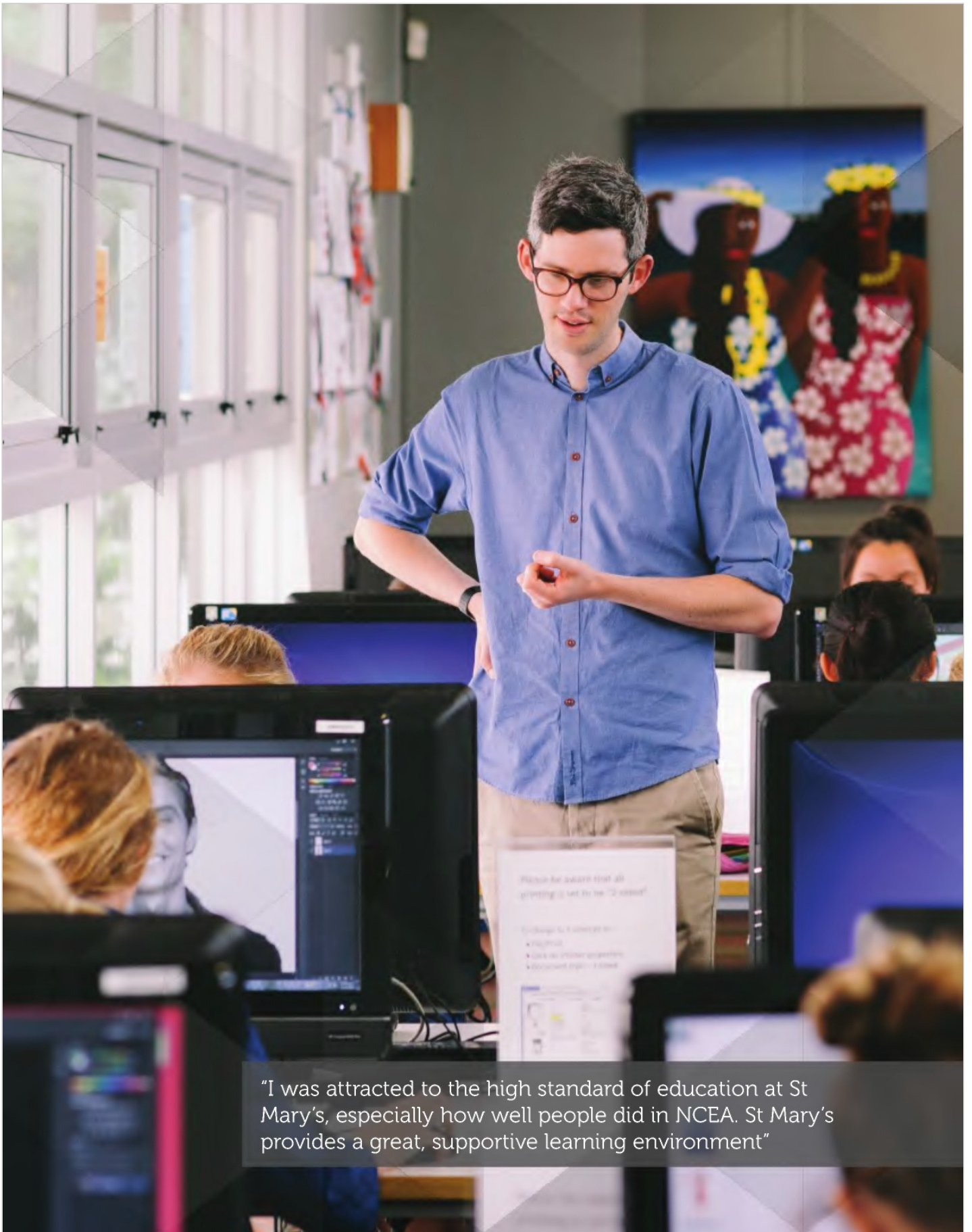
St Mary's College is founded in the Tradition of Mercy. The key values of the Mercy Tradition are grounded in Christ and the teachings of the Gospel. Through these values, students are encouraged to achieve their goals and strive for high standards. Emphasis is placed on learning the skills of self-

discipline, reliability, responsibility, empowerment and self-worth.

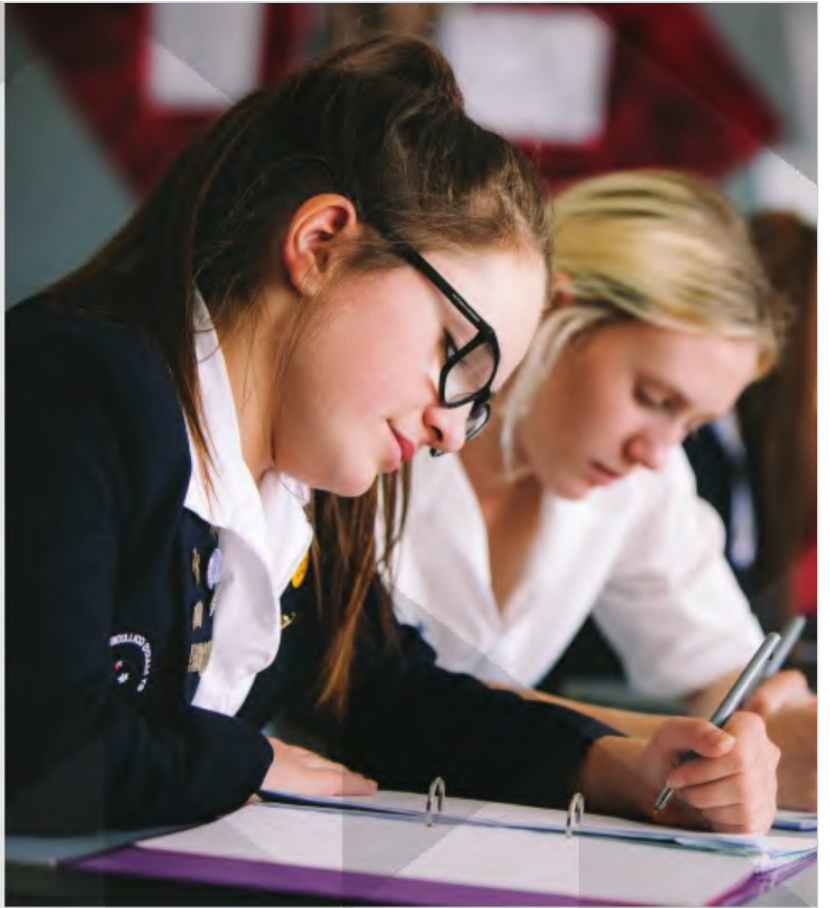
The day-to-day atmosphere at St Mary's College is one of purposeful learning underscored by an attitude of prayerfulness. Integral to the life of the College are liturgical celebrations, particularly the Eucharist, uniting the College community with Christ and members of the worldwide Catholic family.

Mass is said every Thursday in the school chapel and all students, staff and parents are invited to attend.





"I was attracted to the high standard of education at St Mary's, especially how well people did in NCEA. St Mary's provides a great, supportive learning environment"



# A Cultural Richness

## Music

The St Mary's College Music Department is carrying on the tradition of Dame Sister Mary Leo by providing many opportunities for students to learn a musical instrument or participate in choral singing. Instrumental music is compulsory in Year 7 to Year 9 and all students learn to play an instrument, have a weekly lesson and participate in an ensemble. All years have the opportunity to sing as part of the Thursday morning programme.

The College has a wide range of ensembles including orchestras, chamber orchestras, concert bands, senior and junior choirs. More specialised ensembles are also available for students who are more experienced in playing their instrument.

All musicians are welcome and encouraged to share their talent.

## Debating, Speech and Drama

St Mary's College is well known for its success in public speaking and debating, with wins at every level of competition. Every student is given training in the skill and practice of debating and public speaking with selected students entering competitions.

School music and drama productions as well as liturgical celebrations provide opportunities for students to gain further confidence in stage presentation and public performance.

## Cultural Groups

Cultural groups within the College meet regularly and are encouraged to share language and customs with other students. Cultural richness and diversity are honoured during many events including International Day and an annual Cultural Concert.

Students are able to join groups that celebrate many cultures including Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Filipino, Indian, Chinese, Korean and Irish heritage.

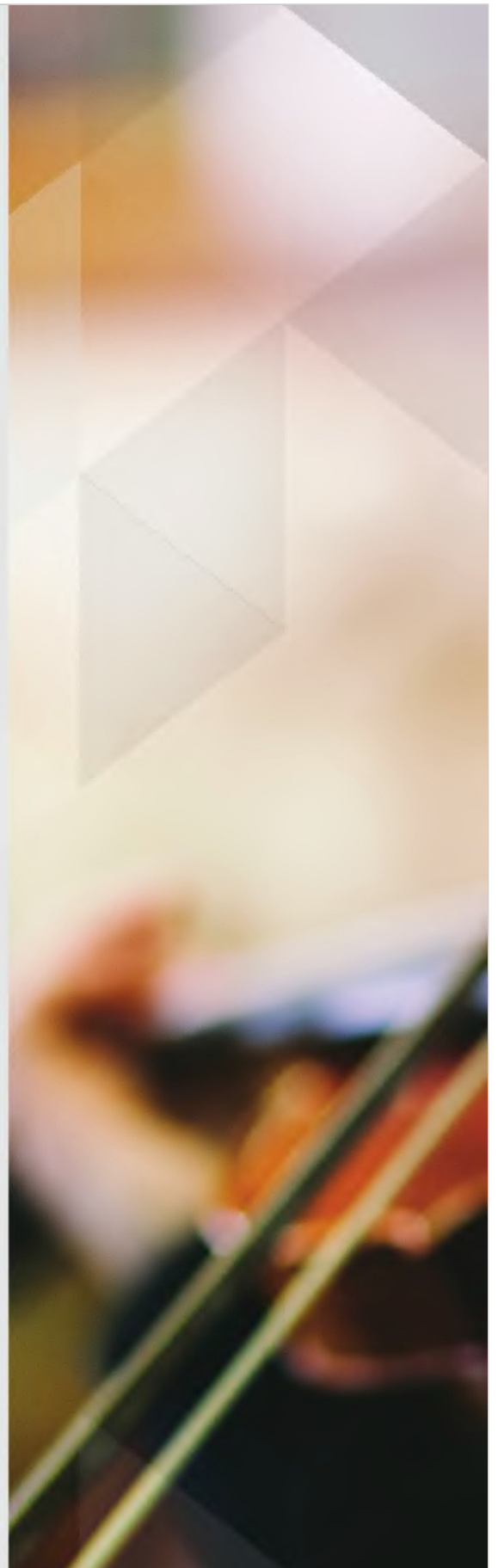
## Service

Students are encouraged to take part in a number of opportunities to serve both our school and wider community including Young Vinnies, Servant Leaders, Liturgical Representatives, Gospel Choirs and Liturgical Dance.

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award is offered to students in Year 10 to Year 13. Participants can progress through all three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Expedition training is provided at school during the winter months, with expeditions taking place during the summer.

Students also work independently to complete the other components of the Award: Service, Skill and Physical Recreation. The Award encourages students to show imagination, to be able to look beyond barriers, work with others and to set goals.





"For me, St Mary's is most notable for the music programme, the library and especially the high standard of teaching"

"St Mary's College provides an environment where students feel safe and free to be an individual. "

"St Mary's enables me to explore and develop my faith and spirituality, while equipping me with the values of a Mercy woman."





## Sporting Opportunities

Personal development at St Mary's College includes sport and physical education. Each girl is encouraged to experience a range of sporting activities and is given full support in developing individual and team skills.

St Mary's College has generous sporting facilities including a gymnasium, thirty-three metre swimming pool, tennis and netball courts and grass athletics field.

Outdoor Education Camps in the Junior School aim to provide students with the opportunity to experience a range of exciting and challenging activities in the outdoors. Senior Physical Education students participate in an adventure-based learning programme which includes the challenging High Ropes Course in addition to various leadership and team building activities.

St Mary's College endorses the 'Fair Play Charter' promoting sound attitudes, teamwork and ethics when competing.







St Mary's College welcomes  
your enrolment enquiries

St Mary's College  
Catholic School for Girls  
Year 7 to Year 13

11 New Street  
Ponsonby  
Auckland 1011  
New Zealand

PO Box 47003  
Ponsonby  
Auckland 1144

Telephone (09) 376 6568  
Facsimile (09) 376 0206  
Email [enrolments@stmaryak.school.nz](mailto:enrolments@stmaryak.school.nz)

