

# St Dominic's Catholic College

Founded by the Dominican Sisters

Principal: Carol Coddington  
B.Ed., Dip. Tchg.

T (+64 9) 839 0380

F (+64 9) 839 0390

E stdoms@stdoms.ac.nz

29 Rathgar Rd, Henderson, Auckland 0610

PO Box 21-123, Henderson, Auckland 0650



Dear parents and caregivers,

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

Welcome to Term 3 and a special warm welcome to the new families who have joined our College this term. By this time of the year all our girls should be focussed on their learning and particularly at senior level NCEA assessments. All Year 11-13 students will have assessments that are important for their final NCEA success. Your daughter can show you her NCEA strategic planner and explain exactly what she needs to do to achieve success.

The current NCEA debate is important for parents of our junior students to follow, as it is they who will be impacted as changes are implemented from 2020. It is also a significant issue for all of you who may employ young people in the future. Any changes to NCEA are going to affect Gen Z and these are your children. NCEA was introduced between 2002 and 2004 and many of you will remember that it took some time to be considered a creditable qualification and be embedded – even so many parents who have not been in the system are still confused by the complexity of the system.

I attended a meeting of Principals that was initiated by the Minister for Education on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. It was offered in response to the media campaign where many Principals asked for more time for the NCEA review. Themes that emerged from the discussion were around the reporting of soft skills, this aligns well with the changing face of work and the qualities that employers are looking for in staff, managing over assessment in a world where teenage anxiety is reported to be reaching new heights and the assessment system driving the curriculum rather than the other way around. Discussion also covered the need for Universities to be involved in the process as of much of what we do is driven by their imposed requirements.

We are a school with high student achievement, we also cater for those students who are less able, and in this debate we need to remember that we must cater to the needs of both groups. Our students are achieving above the national average for our decile and we want to continue to challenge them. As a staff we have responded to the invitation to voice our opinions and as parents I would encourage you to go on-line to have your voice heard. You can access the survey at [www.conversation.education.govt.nz](http://www.conversation.education.govt.nz).

**Follow our Facebook page!** So far we are up to 450 followers for our Facebook page so if you aren't already, why not follow us on our Facebook page to see photos and posts about what is happening at our school. Just search for @stdominicscatholiccollege.

*Tena Koutou, tena koutou tena koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou nga mātua nga kaitiaki,*

*God's blessing to you and your families.*

**CAROL CCODDINGTON**  
PRINCIPAL

## THE BEST UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE PASS RATES IN WEST AUCKLAND – THAT'S US!

As you may be aware, this year's Metro magazine named St Dominic's Catholic College as having the most improved University Entrance pass rate amongst equivalent schools *across Auckland*. We are also pleased to report that we have the best UE pass rate of any school in West Auckland. While this is not entirely surprising to us, it does emphasise the hard work of our staff and students and the high expectations that we set for all our students.

UE Pass Rates 2017

St Dominic's Catholic College	74%	Massey High School	51%
Avondale College	68%	Waitakere College	43%
Liston College	62%	Rutherford College	41%
Green Bay High School	62%	Kelston Girls' College	31%
Henderson High School	51%	Kelston Boys' College	25%

Source: Metro magazine

## SPECIAL CHARACTER



### THE CATHOLIC CARING FOUNDATION'S CARING MASS AND CARING AWARDS

Our students Jessica Allen, Jolenna Deo and Charlotte Wong were awarded a Caring Award by Bishop Patrick Dunn at the Catholic Caring Foundation's Caring Mass and Caring Awards at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday July 25<sup>th</sup>, for their outstanding care and commitment to caring for others in our community. The Foundation, through donations and bequests, has been supporting communities in need with grants for emergency housing, domestic violence prevention, elderly support, growth programmes for youth, foodbanks, refugee, migrant and new settler support services and families in crisis for over 25 years. Please support our Annual Appeal and help those in need in our community. To donate or learn more about the Foundation, please go to our website: [www.caringfoundation.org.nz](http://www.caringfoundation.org.nz).

### REAL TALK

Last Thursday and Friday, Years 8, 9 and 10 students had an opportunity to listen to "Real Talk" presentation. Real Talk is an organisation that is all about getting REAL on the topics of sex, relationships and personal identity. Based on Catholic Christian values, Real Talk provides up-to-date resources, presentations and programs that help young people to understand God's amazing plan for love and life. It is important for young people to fully grasp the importance of the human person and the understanding of seeing each and every person as being created for love, respect and dignity. Students enjoyed asking questions and participated in the activities.



### YEAR 10-12 OPTIONS EVENING – WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST

The time for Year 10, 11 and 12 students to choose their subject options for 2019 is fast approaching. Next week students will get their option forms and the 2019 Option Book (which will also be emailed to parents and be available on our website), and the following week on Wednesday August 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our Option Evening starting at 7pm. We will begin with a brief presentation following which parents and their daughters will have the opportunity to talk to subject leaders to find out more about subjects that they are interested in. It's important that students carefully think through which subjects they take next year so we would encourage you to come along if you want to find out more or get advice about particular subjects.

**The Waitemata Police** are offering our students the opportunity to complete a six month introductory programme into the New Zealand Police Force. This will include talks from specialist Police staff, visiting Police stations and operational and training venues, completing the Police entrance fitness test and working with a Police Officer mentor. A number of our Year 12 and 13 students have taken up this opportunity.

### ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE CONCERT BAND PERFORMING AS PART OF THE KBB MUSIC FESTIVAL

The St Dominic's College Concert Band will be performing in the 7 pm session on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell. The Liston College and St Dominic's College Combined Jazz Bands will be performing on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August at 3:30 pm. These performances are open to the public if anyone would like to come along and support the groups.

### MESSAGE FROM ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

At the end of last term school fees statements were emailed – please contact the accounts office if you have not yet paid in full and did not receive a statement or if your email address has changed. Please ensure that by now, you have paid at least 50% of the school fees owed, especially the Attendance Dues which are a compulsory payment. The Attendance dues collected by the College are forwarded to Auckland Common Fund Ltd. Attendance dues are used for loan repayments, property related costs and for building works done at schools in the Auckland Diocese. If you are having difficulties paying the school fees, please contact the accounts office in confidence as soon as possible to apply for financial assistance. [accounts@stdoms.ac.nz](mailto:accounts@stdoms.ac.nz) or call Karen on Ext 8913 or Laura on Ext 8810.

Dance students from Years 10 – 13 enjoyed attending a dance trip to Avondale College last Friday to watch the New Zealand Dance Company perform.



### DIARY DATE:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August Option Evening