

AN INTRODUCTION TO MARIST COLLEGE 2018

Ad Jesum per Mariam

Marist College is a Year 7 – 13 Catholic Integrated girls school in Mt Albert, Auckland. This year the College will celebrate its 90th Jubilee. The Marist Sisters opened the College in 1928 and continued to be the Proprietors of the College until 2001. The College is now owned by the Catholic Bishop of Auckland, but our links with the Marist Sisters are still strong. The College treasures and aims to preserve the special charism of the Marist Sisters, which calls us to have Mary, the mother of Christ, as our model and to think, judge, feel and act as Mary would in the world today.

The school is a decile 7 school. Following a period of significant roll growth the school has been at its maximum of 750 students for the past 7 years with a waiting list. This year we have a small group of International students including girls from Thailand, China, Korea and Japan. Our student population comes from a wide geographical area of Auckland City. The College is proud of its multi-ethnic composition that reflects the greater Auckland population, with 47.60% being European, 24.30% Asian, 16.70% Pacific Islanders, 8.50% Maori and 2.90% of other ethnicities.

The Board of Trustees has regular and on-going consultation with our community and throughout 2015 developed a new charter that will be in place for 2016-2020. New initiatives to meet with the parent community informally have included the very successful Family Festival held each year in March. Fonos and Huis are held each term, as well as monthly PTFA meetings.

Following an extensive building project in 2012 we are now enjoying our magnificent new facilities that provide quality resources enabling optimum teaching and learning conditions. We are particularly proud of our full-sized gymnasium and performing arts facilities. These include a dance room, two drama rooms that can be turned into one large space and specialist music facilities. As well as this there are 6 new general classrooms that are built to support 21st century learning. To start the 2014 year we had a new artificial turf installed and a fully re-developed field following the building project. An activity centre, seating, shade and extensive landscaping projects have been completed and with more planned. Classroom upgrades were also carried out to four classrooms to start the 2016 and 2017 school year.

Marist College is fully committed to providing a holistic education for students. This occurs through a well-balanced curriculum, the provision of opportunities for faith development, service, cultural and physical development. Pastoral care is outstanding and students are personally known. They are encouraged to become involved in the extra-curricular activities offered by the school. Over 20 sporting codes are available and girls are able to find a team that suits their interest and skill level. Sports include athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, cross country, dragon boating, gymnastics, hockey, kilikiti, netball, soccer, swimming, tennis, touch, triathlon, volleyball, waka ama and water polo. Participation in sport is seen as a way of increasing teamwork, leadership and pride among students.

Cultural development is also important through opportunities to participate in such things as musical performance groups and choirs, Stage Challenge, debating, drama productions and cultural groups including Kapa Haka, Samoan, Croatian, Tongan, African, Filipino and Indian.

Emphasis is placed on excellence and the NCEA results continue to be outstanding and well above the National average for Decile 7 girl's schools. In 2017 achievement rates were as follows:

Level 1	92.52%	(73.83% merit and excellence endorsements)
Level 2	99.07%	(68.22% merit and excellence endorsements)
Level 3	97.84%	(69.52% merit and excellence endorsements)

Each year our students also receive a significant number of scholarships both NZQA and from all of the New Zealand Universities.

In Years 7 to 10 we are committed to ensuring that we are responsive to the needs of our students who are "undergoing rapid physical development, becoming increasingly socially aware and encountering increasingly complex curriculum contexts" (Learning in Years 7-10, New Zealand Curriculum). The Years 7 – 10 classes are mixed ability for delivery of curriculum in most areas. The exception is Mathematics

which is streamed. Year 7 classes have a home room and a home room teacher, who teaches the class in at least three learning areas, to ensure strong connection and pastoral relationship. For other subjects they are taught by specialist teachers.

There is a well-planned and co-ordinated programme from Years 7 to 10 that is student centred, is designed to meet the needs of our students and links with the Key Competencies of the New Zealand Curriculum in each learning area. Specialist subject staffing and facilities are integral to the delivery of the Year 7 - 10 curriculum. In Years 7-9 students try out a wide range of subjects before choosing a pathway at Year 10.

In Years 11 – 13 a broad range of subjects is offered and success will enable entry to any tertiary course or type of employment students wish to pursue. We offer the National Certificate of Educational Achievement which is New Zealand's national qualification and is internationally recognised.

The skilled governance of the Board of Trustees and the practical support of the Parent Teacher and Friends Association is much appreciated. The continued association with the Marist Sisters, 7 of whom live on site, is a special and much-valued feature of our school community.

Marist College is in very good heart and continues to be a vibrant and most successful learning community. We are very proud of our girls' achievements and the people they become. Our Marist values underpin all we do. External sources confirm that view. The Education Review Office affirms "the college's continuing high standards of performance" and the Special Catholic Character Review "warmly congratulated the school on the strength of the Special Character in the school". Comments included the following statements:

Marist College continues to be a high performing school and provides high quality education for all students.

The Marist Catholic Character is central to the school's success.

Students experience highly effective teaching.

They are supported to achieve personal excellence and to become capable, competent women. The school is very led and governed.

(Education Review Office Report 2014)

Outstanding strength of Special Character at Marist College -

It is real, pervasive and alive. Marist is rightly seen as a leader among Catholic schools.

(Catholic Character Review Report 2014)

The Strategic Plan, The Education Review Office and Special Character reports are available on our web-site, www.maristcollege.school.nz as is our weekly newsletter.

The Metro Magazine, July/August 2010, published an extensive article titled "Best Schools in Auckland" and we were delighted that Marist College was ranked top school. This first place was for adding value across all measures over 3 years. In 2009 both a student and staff member were profiled in the "hallmarks of excellence" section. From 2011 to 2017 Marist again ranked highly, having the top percentage in Scholarship results in 2011 for the Auckland region.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to meeting you personally to discuss the quality, holistic education Marist College offers.

Monica Johnson

Principal

