



From the Headmaster

Dear Parents, Caregivers and members of our community,

Term Four is moving fast as our days are filled with learning, traditional events, and special occasions. Alongside the enjoyment and planning for significant end of year events and activities, we are proud that our staff and students are successfully maintaining a sharp focus on quality classroom learning.

At the heart of this continuous growth is the Southwell Library. It remains the most visited learning space on campus each day, a testament to the positive, welcoming atmosphere generated by our staff and the dedication of around 40 student librarians. They embody a love of reading and champion its power, reminding us that reading is vital for the mind, taking it to places it would not otherwise venture.

This cherished resource is pivotal in guiding students to become keen on reading and enhancing the experience for our most passionate readers. My sincere thanks also go to the team for the major effort involved in the annual stock take this week, ensuring the continued accountability and accessibility of our collection for the new year. More details on Summer Reading strategies and how to utilise Library resources over the Summer Holiday break can be found further in the newsletter.

I look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming end-of-year events.

Keryn Bindon, Headmaster

SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHESS POWER NATIONALS



Top Girl - Silver Medal: Alexandra Lee
Intermediate Certificate: Alexandra Lee, Zayne Sebastian, Jaden Lee, Kevin Zhang, Siddharth Nair, Jacob Li, Theo Chen, Ryan Jia



Junior Excellence Certificate: Edwin Zhou, Andy Shi, Charlie Liu, Kieran Yu, Moses Kim, Alex Li

MATHS - OTAGO PROBLEM SOLVING CHALLENGE



Distinction - Xavier Leith
Commended - Theo Chen, Jaden Lee



Arielle Hughes for demonstrating the learner attributes of being principled, by always doing the right thing at the right time, and being open minded and reflective in her learning.

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TERM 4 - YEAR 7 & 8 PENNANTS



7TR - Darcy Toye & Ewen Maisonneuve
7GML- Sofiya Taylor & Beauden Crome
7JMC - Poppy Pearson & Conor Norman
7BH - Sarah Yang & Simōn Nordstrom
7DH - Kahurangi Deane & Jayden Liang
7RvH - Indie Harvey & Jason Gladden



8KMA - Charlotte Luxon & Andy Lin
8CH - Gracie Drummond & Xun Cheng
8DR - Rose Goatcher & Katelyn Packer
8PH - Ella Prichard-Gunn & Steven Yuan
8RS - Ayla Hyde & Jack Chen
8MP - Milly Mortensen & Cole Phillips

ICAS ASSESSMENTS - DISTINCTION & HIGH DISTINCTION RECIPIENTS



Year 5- Jonty Oehley, Amelie Charles, Leo Xu
Year 6 - Olivia Du, Moseh Kim, Chloe Cui,
Sarah Ma, Joey Lyu, Charlie Liu



Year 7 - Shiya Gong, Evangeline Rushbrooke,
Rahil Singh, Hannah Grayling
Theo Chen, Amelia Li
Year 8 - Fitia Bolger, Eva Jordan, Catherine
Ferrar, Siddharth Nair, Sacha McIntyre, Nathan
Gundersen, Andy Lin, Ryen Li, Maia Robinson,
Gavin Tang



High Distinction

Year 8 - Terrance Ya, Gavin Tang, Maia
Robinson, Roddy Tan

SOUTHWELL ASSEMBLY

THE BELOW IMAGES WERE DISPLAYED ON THE LARGE SCREEN AT ASSEMBLY

STUDENTS TELL US ABOUT BEING ORGANISED



WHO IS ORGANISED



SOUTHWELL ASSEMBLY

THE BELOW IMAGES WERE DISPLAYED ON THE LARGE SCREEN AT ASSEMBLY

STUDENTS TELL US ABOUT BEING BALANCED



WHO SHOWS BALANCE



SOUTHWELL ASSOCIATE OF HONOUR MRS RITA DAVIES



Southwell School formally recognised Mrs. Rita Davies this week in All Hallows Chapel, honouring her with the prestigious title of Southwell Associate of Honour. The ceremony, attended by family, friends, and the school body, celebrated her profound and dedicated service to the School and the wider community.

The Associate of Honour represents the highest accolade the School can confer, designated for individuals who exemplify the School Values: service, integrity, creativity, caring, respect, and resilience. This is a distinction of extraordinary rarity, having been awarded only seven times previously. Mrs. Davies is notably the first female recipient of this honour.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Davies.
Per aspera ad Astrum.



Hold onto your sunhats

GET READY TO PLAY!

We are bursting with excitement to announce that our brand new Year 3 & 4 playground is coming soon. There will be so much fun your sandals might fly off!

A huge thank you goes to our amazing parent community. Every single Gala Dinner ticket, and generous donation is making this spectacular fun possible.

The hard work will start this December over the Christmas break, and we can't wait to see it come to life!

For students in Year 5-8 2026, don't worry - you won't miss out on the action. Everyone will get to test out the new play equipment - we will make sure you are timetabled onto the new playground in the first few months of next year.

Get those playing feet ready... the countdown is ON!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW THE CHILDREN'S REACTION TO THE PLANS



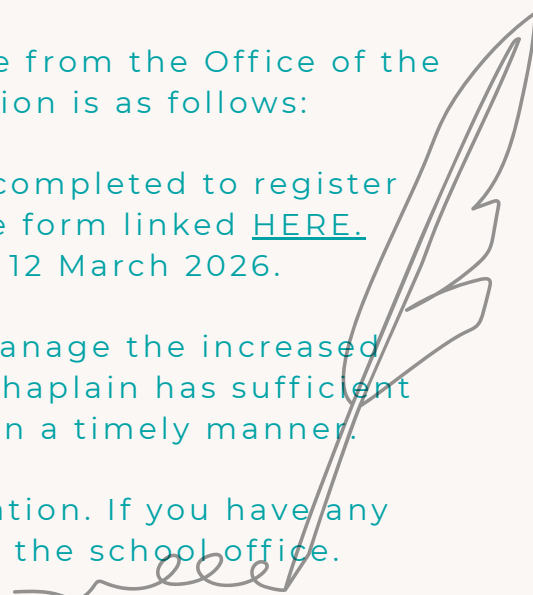
2026 CHARACTER REFERENCES FROM THE SOUTHWELL CHAPLAIN

Please note, the process for obtaining a reference from the Office of the Chaplain for a child's 2027 school application is as follows:

1. Registration Form: A specific form must be completed to register your need for a reference. You can find the form linked [HERE](#).
2. References will be called for by Friday, 12 March 2026.

This process has been implemented to help manage the increased demand for references and to ensure that the Chaplain has sufficient time to provide these references to families in a timely manner.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



JUMP JAM™

SOUTHWELL SHINES AT NATIONAL FINALS



We are absolutely bursting with pride and excitement to share the incredible results from the Jump Jam National Finals held in Bethlehem last Saturday.

Both of our teams were truly outstanding, leaving everything they had on the floor with their passionate routines!

A massive congratulations to our Senior Team. Their hard work and dedication paid off in the most spectacular way:
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

They captured the National Title in the Year 7/8 Jump Jam Advanced Competition. They also earned top honours across multiple categories:

Excellence in Presentation
Distinction in Technical Execution
Distinction in Creativity
Distinction in Costumes

Our Year 5/6 Team was equally inspiring. Considering only three of the members had previous Jump Jam experience, their results are a true testament to their dedication and commitment to almost a full year of practices:

3rd Place in the North Island

Their commitment also earned them:
Excellence in Technical Execution
Excellence in Presentation



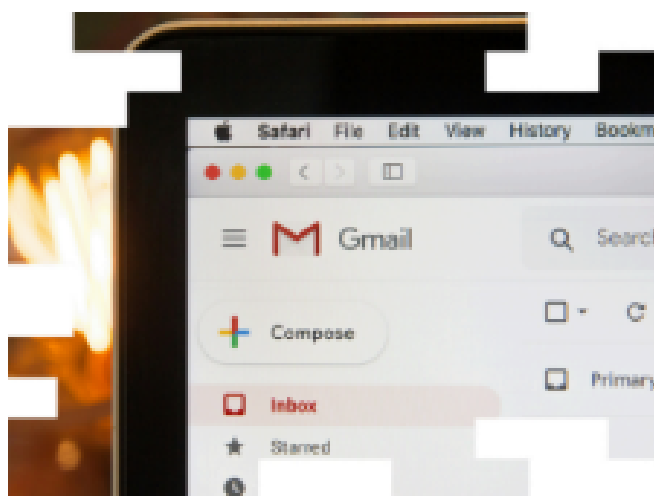
These incredible results would not have been possible without the tireless efforts, passionate care, and unwavering commitment of our amazing coaches, Mrs Hawthorn and Mrs Jones.

Thank you for your immense work mentoring and inspiring these children, and for your dedication behind the scenes to grow and develop each participant. You have embodied Southwell passion in action.

CONNECTED & PROTECTED: CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

SCAM ALERT; FAKE ONLINE COMPETITIONS

Tamariki are particularly vulnerable to fake prize and competition scams. These often arrive as an email or text message claiming you've won a prize in a competition or lottery you didn't enter and ask you to pay a fee or tax to claim your winnings. Explore the warning signs of these scams and share them with your tamariki with this expert advice from Netsafe.



Scam alert: Phishing scams
Ever received a scam message asking you to click a link or open an attachment? That was a phishing message. As tamariki start to develop independent communication methods like having their own phone or email address, they need to develop the skills to identify a phishing message. Netsafe explains [how to spot a phishing scam and what to do](#) if you think you've been targeted.

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY
ONLINE HARM?
CONTACT THE NETSAFE HELPLINE
FOR FREE CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE:

PH: 0508 638 723.



**ENROL NOW
FOR MUFASA!**
www.artzonshow.co.nz

DANCE

DRAMA

VOCALS

ART

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
19 - 23 January

SOUTHWELL SCHOOL





Please remember to respect our Southwell neighbours when dropping and picking up your children. No parking over driveways, in driveways and on grass berms and road frontages of neighbouring properties. Thank you for your co operation.



Words of Wisdom from an Old Boy

Damien Daniels (1993-95) spoke at the 1995 Leavers' Dinner on behalf of the boarders and said: "If you aim for the sky you shall get to the top of the tree but if you aim for the tree you shall not even get off the ground."



A DAY OF MUSIC AND CONNECTION

Last week our music students had a brilliant day making music! The Symphony Orchestra and choir students traveled to St Peter's, Cambridge for a spirited music exchange that included students from Kings. The students were immersed in focused workshops, splitting into choir, wind, and string groups across the Chapel, Music Room, and Auditorium. Working on two pieces each, they benefited from instruction from a mix of teachers from all three schools. The day concluded with a brief performance showcasing their work, followed by a festive viewing of Elf Jr. New relationships were built, and great music was made! Thank you to St Peter's Cambridge for hosting such a fabulous event.



Southwell Rash Shirts

\$65



A rash shirt is a great addition to your child's school swimming gear for added sun safety.

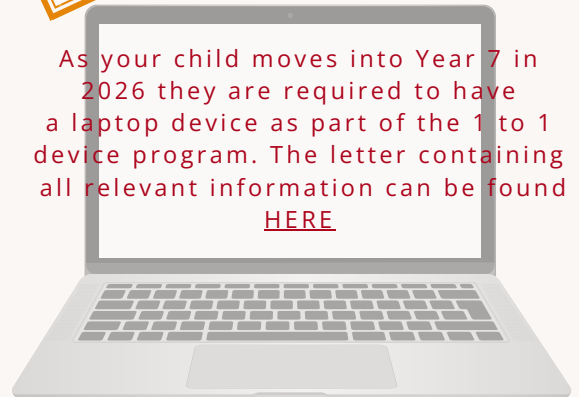
These are a great way for both boys and girls to stay protected while in the water.

Rash shirts are available for \$65 at the Uniform Shop. Please email the uniform shop if you would like your child to purchase one.



2026 YEAR 7'S

As your child moves into Year 7 in 2026 they are required to have a laptop device as part of the 1 to 1 device program. The letter containing all relevant information can be found [HERE](#)



SOUTHWELL NEWS

YEAR 8 LEAVING THEIR LEGACY THE SOUTHWELL STORY BOOK 2025

As told by the Year 8 Teaching Team

What We Wanted to Achieve as a Team

Every student who walks around Southwell's grounds contributes a unique thread to its rich tapestry. As the Year 8 students of 2025 prepare for their transition to High School, we embarked on an exciting inquiry project designed to celebrate their unique journey in this special place.

Our goal was simple, for every Year 8 student to understand 'The Power of Stories' by reflecting on an aspect of Southwell - a moment, a place, a tradition, or a person - and use that to tell their own story on one A3 page. This wasn't just an exercise in creative writing; we wanted it to be the creation of living history.

A single, beautifully hand-crafted A3 book was created by The Book Bindery in Auckland. This book was formally gifted to the school on Founder's Day and blessed by the Chaplain. This year marks 25 years since girls first started here at Southwell and now half of the graduating year group are girls.

The book will ensure that each and every student is a visible part of Southwell History, providing a powerful testament to the vibrant and diverse experiences that make up our school. The book is dedicated by the students to Jack Willson, a special friend and classmate remembered by this year's leavers.

This lasting gift will be left behind for future generations to learn from. The book is available for viewing for anyone interested in doing so.





25 YEARS OF GIRLS

2025 A Night of Connection & Celebration NOV 3RD

Last Friday evening was truly one for the history books! It was a remarkable milestone celebration made unforgettable by the presence of our wonderful community.

The air was filled with the familiar warmth of the Southwell family. From joyful reunions with old friends and cherished teachers to the sharing of laughter, stories, and treasured memories spanning decades, the night was a testament to everything we hold dear: friendship, spirit, and deep belonging.



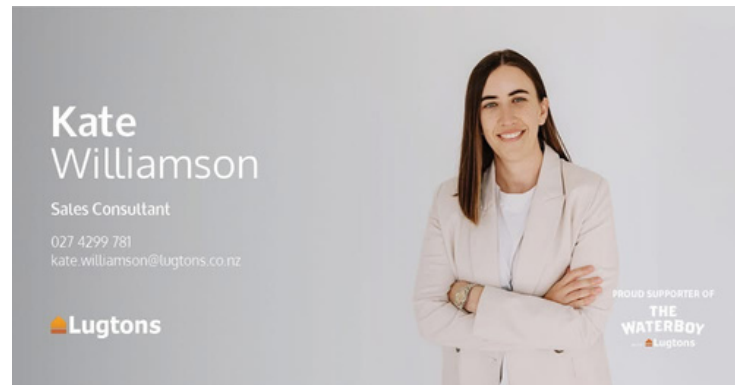
Essence of Southwell

We were especially touched by those who made the journey from far and wide to join us - your commitment to this special milestone meant the world. And to our speakers: thank you. Your reflections and heartfelt words perfectly distilled the enduring

strength, warmth, and spirit that have uplifted our girls over the past 25 years. strength, warmth, and spirit that have uplifted our girls, your speeches were truly beautiful and deeply appreciated.



Special Thankyou



Our profound thanks go to our exclusive event sponsor, Kate Williamson — Lugtons. Kate's steadfast support not only made this beautiful evening possible but also added a genuine, personal connection to our reunion.





from the
LIBRARY

* BOOK * RECOMMENDATIONS



THE LAST JOURNEY BY STACY GREGG (9+)

Stacy Gregg writes a great animal story. But this time she has veered away from her beloved horses and she has zoomed in on cats. Set in the UK in what feels like a pre-dystopian society, the government has decreed that all cats need to be destroyed as they believe that the felines are killing too many birds.

The dreaded Curiosity (clever name right there!) sends letters to owners to let them know that their cat's time has come - and there can be no arguments.

But living in a secluded cul-de-sac is Pusskin, who, at birth, was chosen for something special. He brings together the other cats on his street and they head for a mystical island where they have heard that cats can live in peace.

The story follows their journey as they try and evade the Curiosity and navigate humans in general.

This story is a brilliant commentary on the joy that animals bring to humans, but it is also a warning as the inspiration came from a near-truth during the Covid-19 pandemic



Summer Reading

Avoid the Summer Reading Slide by encouraging your child to read regularly throughout the summer holidays.

If your child is in Year 1-7 they are welcome to borrow a bagful of books from our library.

They need your permission so we can be assured that the books will be returned, so please fill in THIS form.



Stocktake Week/ Overdues/ Lost Books

Week 6 is Stocktake Week and the library will be closed all week.

If your child has books that they currently no longer need, please can you encourage them to return them ASAP. If they are currently reading a book, they MUST keep it and keep reading!!

All books will go overdue on November 23 and from then Mrs Walch will start sending regular reminders for books to be returned. (A good incentive to get those books back in!!)

Leaving students will be charged for lost or damaged books as soon as term ends.



SOUTHWELL NEWS- SNAPSHOTS

