



From the Headmaster

TECHNOLOGY IS A MOVING TARGET

Parenting event sponsored
by Sentinel Homes

Empowering parents,
strengthening communities

Tackling Technology

Navigating the
digital world
with our kids

Tues 24 March
6pm-7.30pm

Southwell School
Hamilton

In recent conversations with many of you, a consistent theme has emerged: the complexity of parenting in an increasingly digital age. Whether the concern is: the impact of social media on mental health the nuances of gaming safety, or the practical hurdles of managing parental controls. It is clear that building digital resilience is one of the most significant challenges we face as a community.

In partnership with Parenting Place, join us, as we host - '**Tackling Technology**'.

This session is designed specifically for our community, aimed to address the rapid evolution of the digital landscape. The evening will provide a pragmatic approach to navigating the digital world alongside your children.

Join us for a drink and a bite to eat as we engage with this vital topic!

Numbers are limited and we ask that you register your attendance [HERE](#).

Keryn Bindon, Headmaster

SOUTHWELL 2026 PREFECTS



We are proud to introduce our newly appointed School Prefects for 2026. These students have been chosen for their demonstrated integrity, commitment to our school values, and their desire to serve the student body.

Our Head Prefects and prefect team will act as a vital bridge between staff and students.

Their primary focus for the 2026 academic year will be:

Fostering Inclusion: Ensuring every student feels seen and heard.

Mentorship: Supporting younger year levels through peer guidance.

School Spirit: Leading house events and community service initiatives.

"Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in our charge."

We are confident that they will serve with the dedication and enthusiasm required to make 2026 a special year. Please join us in congratulating our new leaders when you see them around school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Eddie Heap	Head Boy
Evangeline Rushbrooke	Head Girl
Beauden Crome	Deputy Head Boy
Poppy Pearson	Deputy Head Girl
Kobe Martin	Wellbeing Prefect
Lola Watson	Wellbeing Prefect
Jonny Cridge	Junior School Prefect
Darcy Toye	Junior School Prefect
Keanu Gault	Kapa Haka Prefect
Kahurangi Deane	Kapa Haka Prefect
Rahil Singh	Sports Prefect
Olivia Aviles-Young	Sports Prefect
Archie Tapper	Head Boarder
Zara Boyden	Head Border
Roddy Tan	Sacristan
Karys Jones	Sacristan
Sienna Culpepper	Cultural Prefect
Eden McCaffrey	Cultural Prefect
Stan Stewart	Cultural Prefect - Head Chorister
Juno Knauf	Cultural Prefect - Head Chorister
Jack Baldock	Enviro Prefect
Alexa Sanders-Edwards	Enviro Prefect



Hannah Grayling	Head of Durham
Guus Holloway	Head of Durham
Chloe Aviles-Young	Head of Canterbury
Simón Nordstrom	Head of Canterbury
Sam McLeod	Head of Lincoln
Tommy Rowe	Head of Lincoln
Conor Norman	Head of Salisbury
Olivia Kay	Head of Salisbury
Frankie Spencer	Head of Winchester
Taj de Groen	Head of Winchester
Harrison Burns	Head of York
Charlotte Bell	Head of York

SOUTHWELL - INTRODUCING OUR HEAD & DEPUTY HEAD PREFECTS FOR 2026

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on the talented team leading our students this year. A huge congratulations to Eddie Heap (Head Boy), Evangeline Rushbrooke (Head Girl), Beauden Crome (Deputy Head Boy), and Poppy Pearson (Deputy Head Girl).

These students were chosen not just for their achievements, but for their commitment to making our school a better place for everyone. Whether they are mentoring younger peers or collaborating with staff, Eddie, Evangeline, Beauden, and Poppy embody the spirit of our community. We can't wait to see the positive impact they will make!



EDDIE HEAP

Favourite Subjects: Maths, P.E and Pottery

Favourite Food: Steak

Possible Careers: An Entrepreneur

Favourite Books: Below by David Hill



EVANGELINE RUSHBROOKE

Favourite Subjects: Maths, Writing and Drama (I can't decide which one I like best)

Favourite Food: Biltong

Possible Careers: Doctor, engineer, architect or actor

Favourite Book: Zeros, Gone (series), Skulduggery Pleasant (series), Grave Flowers and many more



BEAUDEN CROME

Favourite subjects: Pottery, Library, Drama & P.E.

Favourite Food: BBQ ribs, nachos & enchiladas

Possible Careers: Engineer, Sports Statistician, Financial trader

Favourite Book: I am David, Lord of the flies, Animal Farm



POPPY PEARSON

Favourite subjects: P.E, Social Science & Reading

Favourite Food: Watermelon

Possible Careers: I want to run my own business, specifically, a dog motel.

Favourite Book: Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

PREFECT COMMISSIONING SNAPSHOTS



SOUTHWELL NEWS- AWARDS, BADGES, CERTIFICATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



BOARDER OF THE WEEK
Jack Cunningham for a brave start to his boarding career



Elise Huang: Grade Examination in Music Performance - Level 1- Distinction



2026 SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

New members: Ella Liu, Lucas Han, Lucus Cheung, Briar Ord, Jayden Liang, Evangeline Rushbrooke, Sarah Saju, Kieran Yu, Achilles Xiao, Mumum Bai, Sky Li, Amelie Charles, Sarah Ma, Kayden Hyde, Veronica Lee, Theo Trenwith, Bryan Shang, Jacob Li, Justin Guo, Jayden Chen, Shiya Gong

Returning members: Max Zhang, Ryan Jia, Elli Li, Leo Xu, Olivia Du, Mikayla Wang, Chloe Cui, Scarlett Davison, Eden Chen, Alex Li, Felix Tang, Roddy Tan, Karys Jones, Lucas Wang

2026 SHOW QUEST CAST

Cast - Mila Gregory, Nikita Lillas, Emily Lugton, Camilla Al Zuraiqi, Emily Aquilina, Kenzia Cox, Ishwarjot Dhillon, Libby Hyde, Briar Ord, Georgia Donald, Mila Germann, Ella Liu, Theo Laity, Rose Stark, Isla Anderson, Lucy Bourke, Mackenzie Fleming, Mya Gilbert, Indie Harvey, Ryan Jia, Leah Munro, Poppy Pearson, Chole Stokes, Mia Botha, Emma Brighouse, India Davison, Eden McCaffrey, Evangeline Rushbrooke, Hannalise Stratford, Dinloor Janda, Charlotte Bell, Kahurangi Deane, Addi Hawthorn, Georgia Hoy, Maya Hudson, Francesca Matich, Sam McLeod, Stan Stewart, Arahia Turia-Fox, Harry Hatcher, Blake McIntyre, Sofiya Taylor, Amelia Burman, Sienna Culpepper, Eddie Heap, Karys Jones, Bella Matheson, Pip Ormrod, Rylee Vining, Lola Watson, Sarah Yang, Charlee Flaxman

Lighting Tech - Roddy Tan, Jackson Rawcliffe

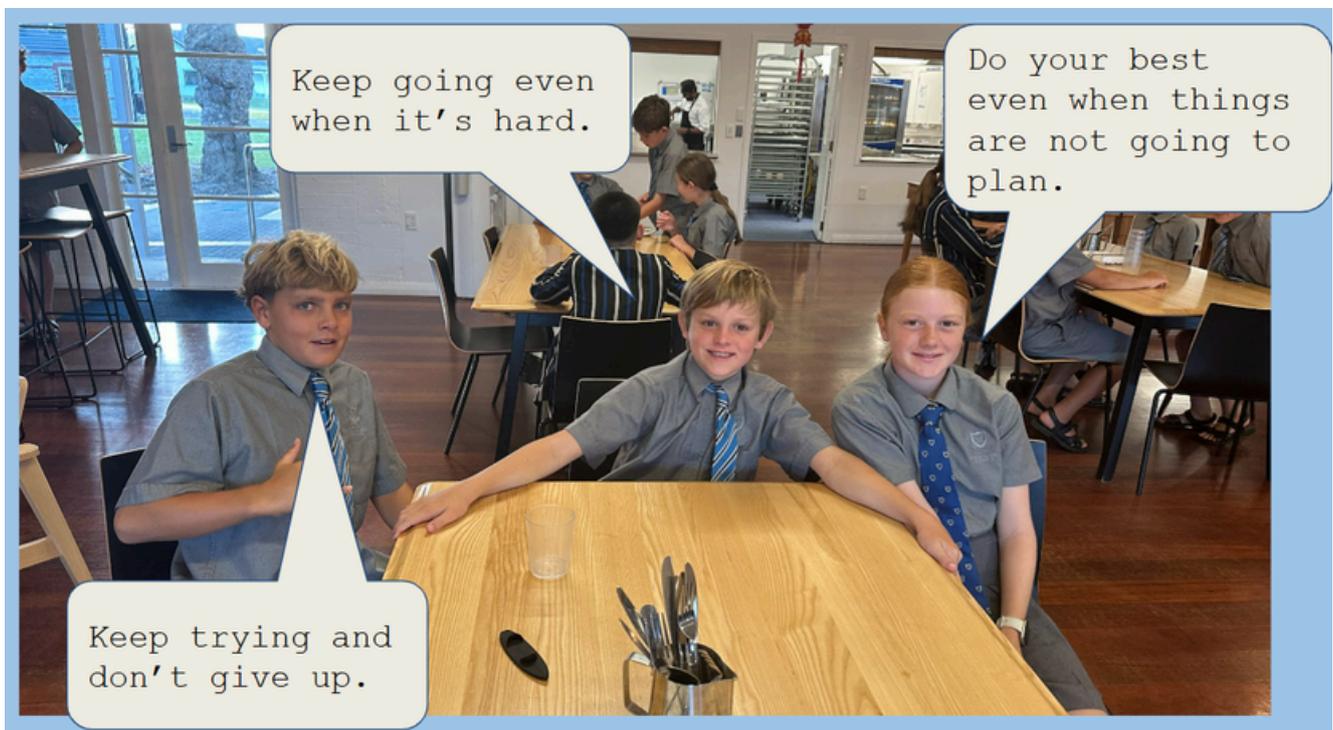
Stage Crew - Guss Holloway, Sam Benjamin

SOUTHWELL NEWS - ASSEMBLY

The images below were displayed on the large screen at assembly
WHO STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE



STUDENTS TELL US WHAT EXCELLENCE MEANS TO THEM



Keep going even when it's hard.

Do your best even when things are not going to plan.

Keep trying and don't give up.

The "old" Swimming Pool
Southwell's original Swimming Pool was constructed in 1922 when Mr HG Sergel was Headmaster. The length of the pool was 33 ½ yards and races were held in lengths and widths. The pool water in those days was often very green, and had a large population of croaking bullfrogs with a very loud chorus!

From the
Archives

SOUTHWELL NEWS - ASSEMBLY

The images below were displayed on the large screen at assembly
WHO ACTS WITH INTEGRITY



STUDENTS TELL US HOW THEY SHOW INTEGRITY



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Sheridan Eketone

Parent Coach, Trainer
& Presenter

Sheridan Eketone is passionate about shaping the hearts of the next generation through great parenting. Mum of four teenagers, Sheridan is grateful to her own tamariki for teaching her the importance of connection when it comes to raising confident and resilient kids.



Holly Jean Brooker

Online Safety Advocate
& Parenting Educator

Holly is a child online safety advocate, educator and writer, and co-founder of Makes Sense. A former high school teacher and mother of two, she is passionate about supporting families to navigate technology safely. She's currently completing a Master of Public Policy to help shape stronger protections for children in the digital world.



Pio Terei

Pōu Tangata &
Kaikōrero (Event MC)

Pio Terei MNZM is a much-loved television personality and proud dad. Using his trademark humour and relatable stories, Pio delivers memorable tips that resonate and encourage parents. Of Ngā Puhi and Te Rarawa descent, Pio's passion for New Zealand is deep-seated.



This Southwell exclusive opportunity is not to be missed. Numbers are limited and we ask that you register your attendance [HERE](#).

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, 13 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.



CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

Our school community has been buzzing with energy and colour over the past week as we celebrated the Year of the Horse. It has been a wonderful opportunity to embrace the rich traditions of our Chinese families and learn from one another.

A Special Thank You to Our Families

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Chinese parent community. Your generosity in sharing traditional red envelopes (Hóngbāo) with our staff, students, and families was such a meaningful gesture. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are deeply appreciated.

It was inspiring to see our students immerse themselves in these vibrant traditions:

Rhythmic Drumming: The powerful beats that echoed through the halls set a festive and energetic tone.

The Dragon Dance: A spectacular display of teamwork and artistry that captivated everyone.

Artistic Calligraphy: Students had the chance to practice the focused, elegant art of traditional brushwork.

Moments like these do more than just entertain; they strengthen our understanding, connection, and appreciation of each other.

We appreciate everyone who played a part in making this celebration possible. By sharing these experiences, we continue to build a school culture where every family feels seen, heard, and celebrated.



SOUTHWELL NEWS



JUST READ

Hopefully your child is enjoying the Just Read time each day at school and they are reading some good books. Do chat with them about what they're reading and encourage them to persevere at least twice if things seem to be getting boring!

We are encouraging students to make sure that they are prioritising reading fiction where possible as this encourages some of those great soft skills - creativity, imagination, communication, empathy, care etc..

If you have an avid Non Fiction reader, do reiterate this with them. Non Fiction is fab but it doesn't always hone in on those soft skills and, because you can dip in and out, it doesn't encourage sustained reading.

PARENT HELP

Thanks to the parents who have already been to offer some help in the library.

For more details about what needs to be done, refer to the previous newsletter.

email Penny Walch (Librarian) at penny.walch@southwell.school.nz if you are keen!



SAVE THE DATE
4 March 2026 | 5pm

— WAIKATO —
SUPPER CLUB

AN EVENING OF CUISINE, COMMUNITY AND CHARITY

Southwell School Performing Arts Centre

Drinks, canapés, live & silent auctions, followed by the random draw of your dining venue.

Tables of 10 – \$1,800

Includes a 3-course dinner at a supporting restaurant. Dinner beverages not included.

Tickets on sale from
www.galabid.com/wsc26

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON GARDENS

Baroque Beginnings Fundraising Dinner

Join us for a special evening supporting Hamilton Gardens' next chapter.

Friday, 13 March 2026
6pm to approx. 10:30pm
The Pavilion, Hamilton Gardens

Parking: Gate 1
Dress code: Black tie
Tickets:
\$185 per person
\$1750 per table for 10 guests (save \$100)

Featuring: Anna Mowbray, entrepreneur and Zuru founder, in conversation with Lucy Ryan, plus a live and silent auction. Includes a three-course dinner and wine service.

RSVP to confirm your place to fohgbaroque@gmail.com

Hosted by Friends of Hamilton Gardens, in partnership with Montana Food and Events

Proudly supported by our generous sponsors and partners.

All proceeds raised go to
Ronald McDonald House
Charities New Zealand



FROM OUR SCHOOL



Information Sheet on Vision and Hearing Checks in School

Vision Hearing Technicians from Community and Southern Rural Health will be visiting our school. The objective of the test is to identify previously undetected vision and hearing defects.

If any parents/caregivers **do not** want their child to be checked, or their child is currently under specialist care for a vision or hearing defect, they should let the school know.

Which children are routinely checked?

Children who have not completed vision and hearing checks as part of their B4 School Check & Children absent from previous visit, require retests or follow up.

Year 7 Students Routine Distance Vision Screening only

In special circumstances, parents, teachers or others may request a vision or hearing check, this can be a **maximum of 5 children not already listed.**

Please refer to blurb in body of appointment email for specifics on requests.

What tests are carried out?

Ears

Audiometry (hearing test)

Tympanometry – middle ear function test (only carried out when hearing test is not within a normal range)

Eyes

Long distance vision tests – not a complete visual examination, but a simple screening test

NB All of these checks are non-invasive, safe and should cause no discomfort.

The Vision Hearing Technician will:

Notify parents of all test results

Enter results on Ministry of Education database (Enrol).

The Vision Hearing Technician will obtain personal details from the school ie: names, date of birth.

If the technician needs to contact parents or caregivers following the visit, addresses and phone numbers will also be required.

Our Service may share this information with other health professionals involved in the children's care.



Open Day

FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026

9.30AM - 12PM

Scan to
Register



SNAPSHOTS- YEAR 4 CAMP



CAMP



SNAPSHOTS

