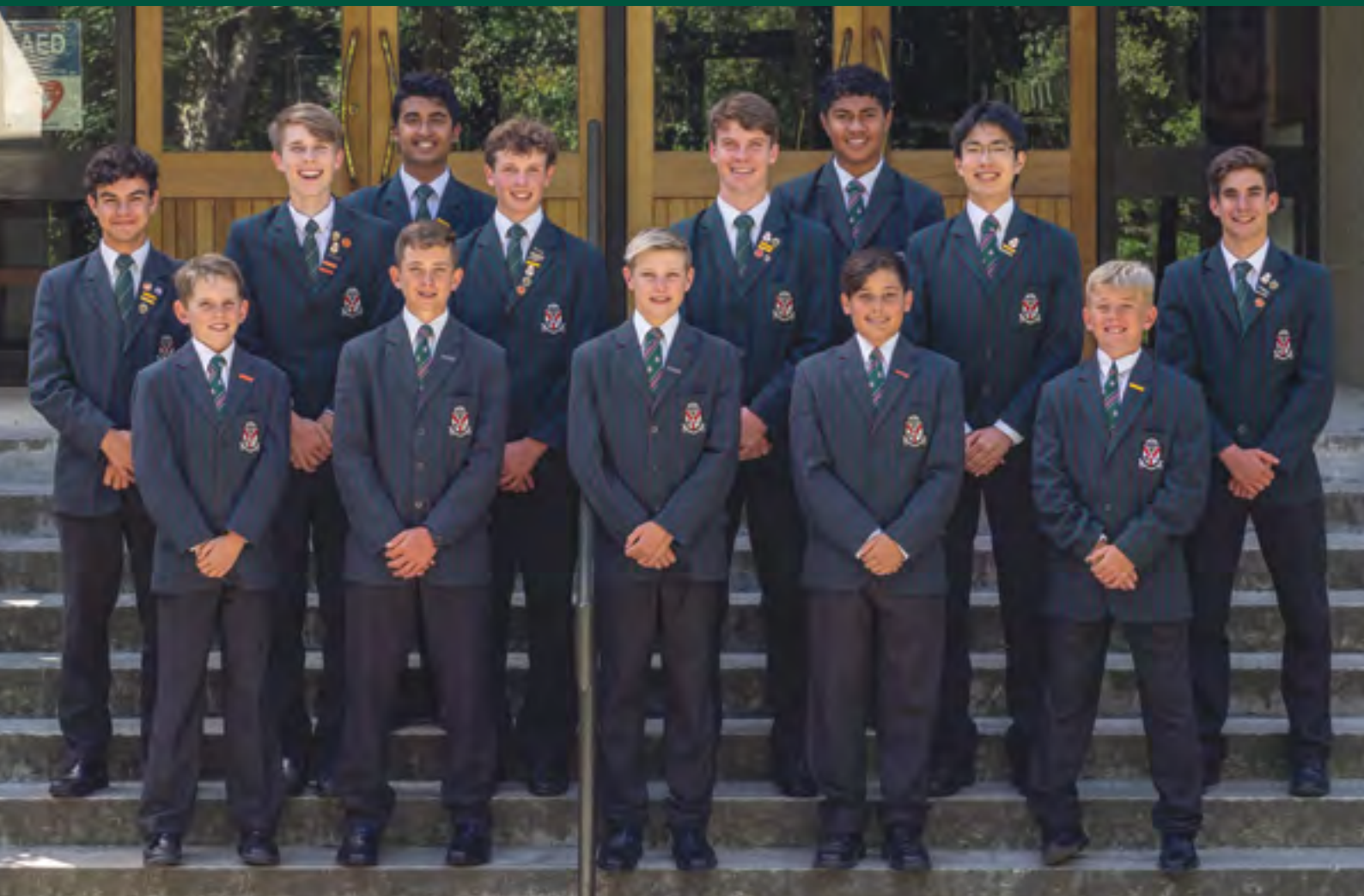




Rathkeale College

Nil mortalibus ardui est
Nothing is too difficult for mortal man



*a foundation for the future
hei tuarā anamata*



Unique

Principal's welcome



Rathkeale College is an excellent school and we are proud of the reputation our students have forged both locally and throughout New Zealand.

In a rapidly changing educational environment and society, we are a school that makes a positive difference.

We believe Rathkeale College's unique environment develops confident, positive, well-adjusted young men, ready to take their place in society and equipped to succeed in employment and further education.

Our boarding houses and campus provide unique opportunities for students to thrive, well supported by dedicated and caring staff. Although our academic results speak for themselves, student wellbeing sits at the centre of everything we do.

Success at our school is encouraged, promoted and celebrated, and our students regularly achieve success at a regional and national level.

As a school, we have a clear view of where we are going and what we want to achieve. We would like you to be part of this vision. I welcome any enquiry and encourage you to make contact with me to see what Rathkeale College can offer your son.

Martin O'Grady JP

B.Agr, PGDipEdAdminLead, Dip.Tchg.
Principal

Achievement

A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with red stripes and safety goggles, is sitting at a desk and looking intently at a red laptop. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting.

Academic Excellence

There is a strong focus on academic excellence at Rathkeale College. All students are expected, assisted and encouraged to develop a passion for learning, to set personal goals and to monitor and evaluate their own progress.

The school has a proud academic record and is seeking to extend this in a stimulating learning environment which features:

- a conscious effort to limit class sizes (maximum 25, average 15)
- enthusiastic and highly qualified specialist teachers
- streamed classes in junior Science, Mathematics and other selected subjects
- accelerated and extension programmes to provide academic challenge
- individual attention paid to specific learning needs
- ongoing monitoring and regular reporting of students' progress and performance
- academic results which compare favourably with national averages





Well-being



Sport and Outdoor Pursuits

Physical well-being is an integral part of a Rathkeale student's holistic education. All boys are required to participate in summer and winter sport. Specialist coaching is provided in a range of codes through the considerable expertise that comes from within the staff. In cases where there is a reliance on outside school assistance, staff will always manage teams.

Rathkeale teams compete enthusiastically, and with great school spirit, in local, regional and national competitions as well as traditional interschool fixtures.

Sporting options include:

- Summer – athletics, cricket, golf, multisport, swimming, tennis, volleyball
- Winter – cross country running, football, hockey, rugby, squash, clay target shooting
- A myriad of other sports reflecting student interest and staff expertise are catered for
- Individuals competing at a very high level in another sport may, under certain conditions, forego an involvement in summer and/or winter school sport in order to pursue higher personal goals

Outdoor Pursuits has long been regarded as a feature of Rathkeale College. This is still the case through the provision of a variety of camps and activities throughout the year. More recently, the Duke of Edinburgh Programme and Tramping pursuits have added to the diversity of wider school life. This has allowed students to develop further independent and team work skills.

Outdoor programmes include:

- New boarders' orientation activities
- Junior outdoor education camps and activities
- Year 11 Kahikatea Camp
- Year 12 Camp and Year 12 Odyssey (a unique experience for students who relish a physical challenge similar to Outward Bound)
- Year 12 and Year 13 field trips in Agriculture, Biology, Geography and PE, including the Tongariro Crossing

Creativity





Performing Arts

Creative minds are stimulated by the wide variety of cultural activities actively fostered and encouraged at Rathkeale College.

There are expectations of full school participation and opportunities for individual and group involvement.

- a strong tradition of whole school singing
- the availability of twelve itinerant music tutors to allow boys to develop instrumental skills
- inspirational House Music where all boys compete within their competition houses over a range of music and singing performances
- consistently high performance in the Battle of the Bands, Big Sing and ensemble competitions
- orchestra and small group opportunities
- highly successful Senior College drama and Sheilah Winn Shakespeare productions
- vocal and speech tuition
- exhilarating haka performances involving all boys competing against each other in their competition houses



values





A Special Character

Rathkeale College is an integrated school in which Christian values are promoted within our Anglican heritage. Every student, regardless of their background or beliefs, is expected to participate in the spiritual life of the school. Being open minded and accepting of the messages given in weekly chapel services allows the boys to ponder their personal spirituality.

How we promote our special character:

- the presence of a full-time residential Chaplain at the school
- the historic St Martin's On The Close Chapel
- regular full school and year level Chapel services
- Religious Education studies are an essential part of the junior school curriculum
- involvement of parents and families in the spiritual life of the school
- promoting positive personal relationships

Rathkeale provides a committed network of Mentors, Deans and Counsellors which ensures that the care and concern for all boys extends beyond the classroom. The physical, social and emotional well-being of each student is constantly monitored and any support requirements are discussed before implementation. Behaviours that compromise another student's ability to maintain a positive focus are dealt with firmly and decisively.







Quality Boarding Experience

Boarding represents a conscious decision to give your son a unique opportunity to extend himself. Rathkeale offers key development opportunities for boys. Boarders thrive in an environment that fosters independence and self discipline.

Year 9 boarders spend the first year together in Rugby House before dividing into the multi-level Cranleigh and Repton Houses.

Boarding brings together boys from all parts of New Zealand and from overseas. The different ethnic backgrounds and cultures from rural and urban areas, add enormous vitality and diversity to the array of friendships the boys develop. Friendships and the fun had in boarding remain as highlights for many Old Boys.

Boarding life includes:

- a programme of organised activities for boarders designed to utilise and maximise the magnificent and unique environments of Rathkeale and the Wairarapa Valley
- the warm, secure, modern and upgraded boarding houses
- the presence of a Director of Boarding
- a professional and caring involvement of residential boarding masters, matrons and tutors
- prep time supervised by resident staff and senior students
- access to expansive sports grounds and recreational facilities
- the availability of high speed broadband and access to the school's student network
- nutritional and varied meals in a modern Dining Hall where special dietary needs are catered for
- exceptional natural recreation facilities including native bush and the river for trout fishing
- flexible boarding options to fit in with family needs





Unique Senior College

The Rathkeale/St Matthew's Senior College, centred on the Rathkeale campus, offers special opportunities to Year 12 and 13 students from both schools and increasing numbers of new students from other colleges.

The girls attending Senior College bring a fresh perspective into the classroom. The learning environment is purposely timed to foster social skills and self-directed learning. By Year 12, an enhanced level of maturity allows boys to be more responsive to the ethos the Senior College sets out to provide.

The presence of Senior College girls allows a unique calendar of combined extra-curricular activities to be offered, whilst maintaining respective individual school identities.

Since its inception in 1988, the Senior College has proven to be a resounding success. The high standards achieved in NCEA and extra-curricular activities are now strong factors in Year 12 enrolments at both Colleges.

The benefits:

- an extensive range of academic programmes
- academic stimulus and competition
- participation in music, drama and debating
- combined leadership opportunities
- extensive involvement in outdoor pursuits
- opportunities to develop social skills
- enhanced expectations of the students as young adults







International Students

Rathkeale College has a long tradition of hosting International Students. The College prides itself on how it integrates these young men into the New Zealand way of life and its education system. There is a small but highly valued group of International students boarding at Rathkeale at any one time who are drawn from a range of Pacific Rim countries. Presently there are students from Thailand, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Germany and Japan.

A specific curriculum for those with English as a Second Language is provided by a specialist teacher and overall care is provided by the Director of International students.

International students have home stay opportunities with local families to experience the New Zealand lifestyle as well as participating in boarding activities and trips. In addition special events are planned including tourism ventures, dinners and sporting challenges.

Our International students thrive in a vibrant, supportive atmosphere surrounded by their peers in the boarding community.



World in





Education with a Global Outlook

Rathkeale seeks to engage its students with the world around them and the challenges of the 21st Century. This is done through a number of specific initiatives:

- International exchange relationships with colleges abroad
- Close relationships with our Japanese sister school Yachiyo Shoin and Wynberg High School, South Africa.
- Educational and sports trips abroad including South Africa, Europe, Japan and Australia

International students bring an important cultural diversity to the classroom and to boarding life at Rathkeale. GAP tutors from the United Kingdom and South Africa are closely involved with all students, assisting in the classroom, on the sports field and boarding houses. A number of teachers have lived and worked abroad and this brings an international dimension to their classroom teaching. This is complemented by a growing number of staff who attend courses and conferences overseas.





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