



St Bernard's College | PROSPECTUS

TE KURA TUARUA Ō HATO PERENARA

St. Bernard's College

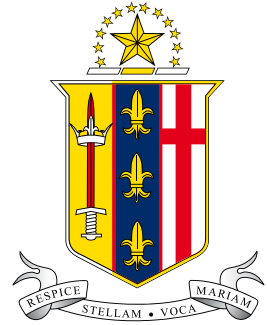


Welcome to
St Bernard's College

Choosing a secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make. I believe that St Bernard's is an excellent choice.



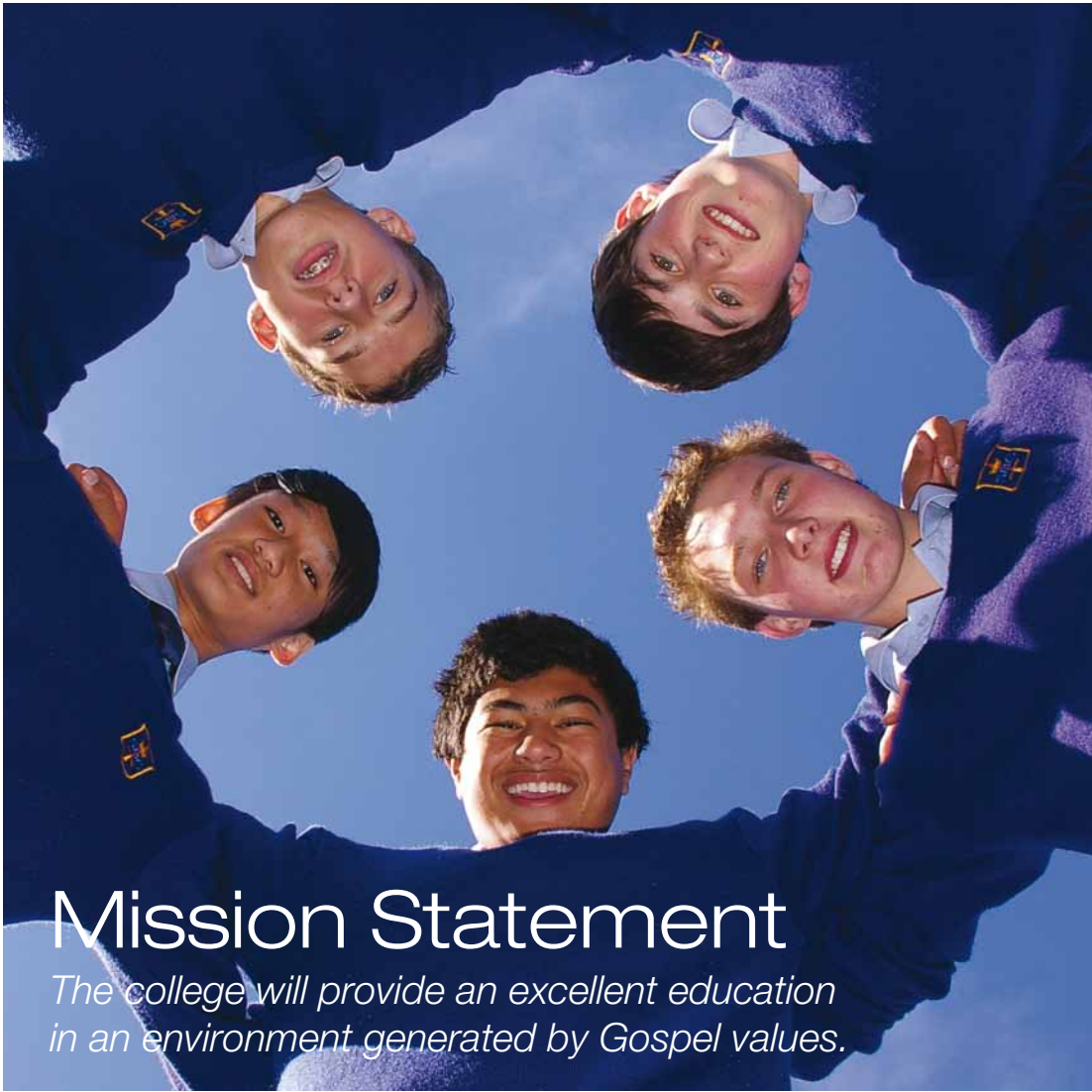
Peter Fava
Principal



If you want ...

- a school that helps boys to become committed to Jesus Christ as their model
- a school that requires hard work so that boys gain the best possible academic achievement and therefore the best possible qualifications
- a school that expects a high standard of behaviour so that the boys grow up with a sense of responsibility towards themselves and others
- a school that provides a wide range of opportunities in sport, music, drama, artistic and cultural development
- a school in which everyone, from the principal down, is committed to the Marist vision of education; one of complete devotion to the best interests of our students
- a school in which teachers, parents and students work in partnership to support every boy to reach his full potential
- a school that will lay a solid foundation for future success by producing young men who live by Christian values, are able to further their studies, can successfully seek employment and are at ease in any cultural setting

*...then I believe St Bernard's
can meet your expectations.*



Mission Statement

*The college will provide an excellent education
in an environment generated by Gospel values.*

The College

St Bernard's College is an integrated Catholic Year 7 to 13 school for boys. The Marist Brothers, in response to Archbishop McKeefry's call, opened St Bernard's in 1946. The college is located in the centre of Lower Hutt, 20 minutes from Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. It serves the Catholic community across the Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata area. The maximum roll is 590 pupils. This is a good size, allowing the college to provide a full and varied range of subjects and activities, yet remaining small enough to ensure a caring, safe and personalised environment.

We provide:

- Continuous Year 7 to 13 education
- A caring Christian environment
- Easy access to staff who listen
- Strong home-school partnerships
- Appreciation of other cultures
- Regular Catholic liturgies
- Commitment to community service
- Discipline and respect for authority
- Encouragement at every level of ability
- Sound academic education
- Consistently high external examination results
- Diversity of academic and vocational courses
- Learning programmes for students with special needs
- English tuition for speakers of other languages
- An extensive range of sports and cultural activities
- Many opportunities for music and other performing arts
- Māori and Pacific cultural groups
- Debating, public speaking and scripture reading
- Teamwork and quality coaching
- Success in major sporting codes



Why a Year 7 to 13 School?

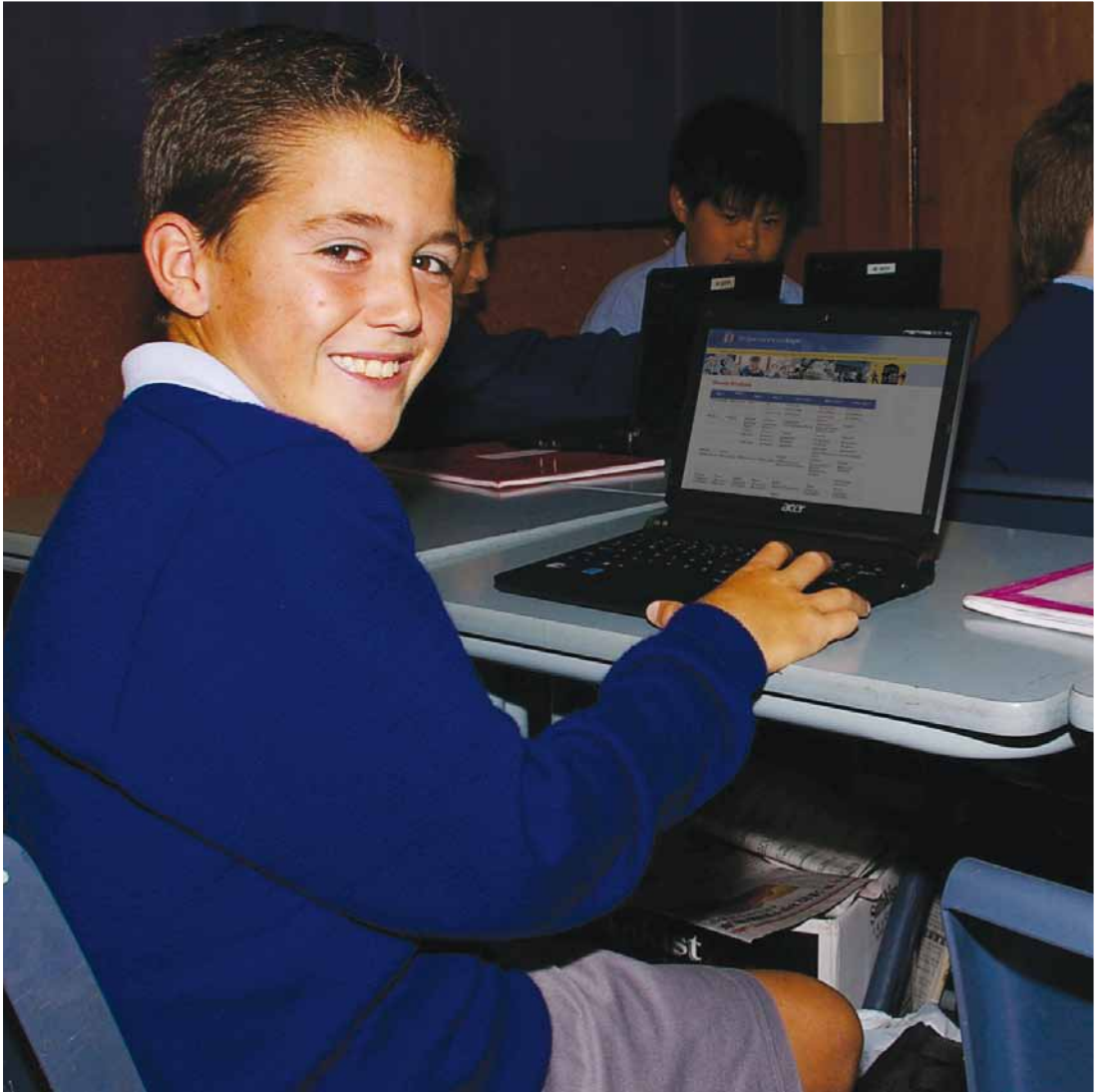
St Bernard's College combines the best features of primary and secondary schooling for its students in Years 7 and 8. They have both a home-room environment and the extended specialist resources normally available only in secondary schools.



This helps the boys in Years 7 and 8 by giving them:

- The security and stability of a caring home-room class with a primary trained teacher who teaches them for about half of the time
- Secondary subject specialist teachers for the balance of the programme
- Fully resourced science laboratories, art room, music suite, computer suite, gymnasium and a state-of-the-art technology block
- Access to a diverse range of experiences, subjects and skills
- The opportunity to establish clear and long-term goals that they can achieve while staying at the same school.

This model also benefits the older boys, since the primary approaches of mixed ability teaching, emphasis on the form class and strong pastoral care are maintained throughout the school.





Junior Years and Beyond

Years 7 and 8

The Junior Studies Department is housed at the Anderson Grove end of the College campus. Students' learning and welfare are supported by a Director of Junior Studies and Dean of Years 7 and 8.

The full core curriculum is taught to all students. Art, Dance, Drama, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Science and Technology are taught by specialist teachers. Assistance is available for those students with special learning or behavioural needs.

Students may learn a musical instrument of their choice through the music tuition programme. Information Technology and computing courses are available for all students. The Technology curriculum is taught in modern well-resourced facilities.

Year 9 and beyond

From Year 9, students are taught by specialist teachers for their full programme. They are timetabled to move to different rooms and teachers each period. In Year 9, students study English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Physical Education, Art, Music, Health, and Computing. Year 9 students have the choice of studying one language.

As students advance beyond Year 9 they progressively get more options from which to choose in their course of study. In their senior years, students are offered a wide range of subjects catering for diverse student interests and differing academic abilities.





Religious Education

All students undertake a programme in Religious Education.

The Religious Education programme is taught according to the Religious Education Curriculum authorised by the New Zealand Bishops' Conference. This curriculum teaches students what the Catholic Church believes, celebrates, lives and prays.

The curriculum also assists young people to develop a relationship with God, and to be living witnesses to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church, always recognising that this depends on each person's free faith response.

Through Chaplaincy services students participate in retreats, St Vincent de Paul Society and Roman Catholic initiation programmes. Leadership opportunities exist through Marist leadership programmes and the Young Catholic Leaders group in the college.





Photo by Ross Giblin. Courtesy Dominion-Post

Sports

The winter and summer sports programme provides a wide range of sporting codes for all students.

College teams participate in local and Wellington regional tournaments and sports exchanges.



Popular codes include:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Chess
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Lawn Bowls
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo

Support Networks

Pastoral Care

All students at St Bernard's College are cared for by several staff members.

The Director of Pastoral Care co-ordinates student welfare to ensure their physical and emotional safety. The Form Teacher is the primary care-giver for a class. The Deans have a particular responsibility for students at a year level. The Guidance Counsellor offers a confidential service to students and parents alike. The Chaplain supports students in their religious and spiritual development. The Director of International Students has the primary responsibility for the welfare of students from overseas. The Careers Adviser provides a full careers programme to all students and offers assistance to individual students.

The Principal and all teaching staff welcome discussion relating to a student's well-being and progress.

Our Pastoral Care Network:

- Director of Pastoral Care
- Guidance Counsellor
- Chaplain
- Form Teachers
- Deans
- Careers Adviser
- Director of Learning Support
- Doctor and School Health Nurse
- Resource Teacher of Learning and Behaviour

Offers support in:

- Personal matters
- Relationships
- Resolving conflicts
- Health issues
- Learning
- Study skills
- Subject choice

Extension and Learning Support

Extension of Gifted or More Able Students

Students who are gifted or more able are given opportunities for extension and enrichment. Students in Years 9 and 10 are placed into classes with consideration given to their academic abilities. In Years 11 to 13 a wide variety of options cater for students of all abilities. There are many opportunities for students to enter competitions in different subjects throughout the year. We are proud of the excellent results our students gain in these competitions.

English Language and Learning Support

St Bernard's College makes a very strong commitment to ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). Those students who need extra assistance with English (as a second language) are assessed and an appropriate plan is put in place. In Years 9 and 10, students who have language difficulties are provided with three lessons of additional English tuition per week.

Our Learning Support department is well resourced and has a caring family atmosphere. Students are carefully assessed to determine what assistance they require with their learning. Teacher aides help students in their learning. Individual education plans are set up for those students who need academic or behaviour management assistance.





Cultural Opportunities

Māori and Pacific Cultures

- The college offers te reo Māori me ōna tikanga (Māori language, customs and traditions) in Years 7 to 10 and te reo Māori in Years 11 to 13.
- Samoan language and opportunities to study Pacific cultures are included as options in the curriculum.
- Māori and Pacific cultural groups are renowned for their polished and energetically-charged performances.

Music

- Music is taught as a subject at all levels and students can receive tuition in a musical instrument.
- Choirs, barber-shop, rock bands and mass bands provide plenty of opportunities for musicians.
- Computer technology is available to assist music composers.



Drama, Debating and Public Speaking

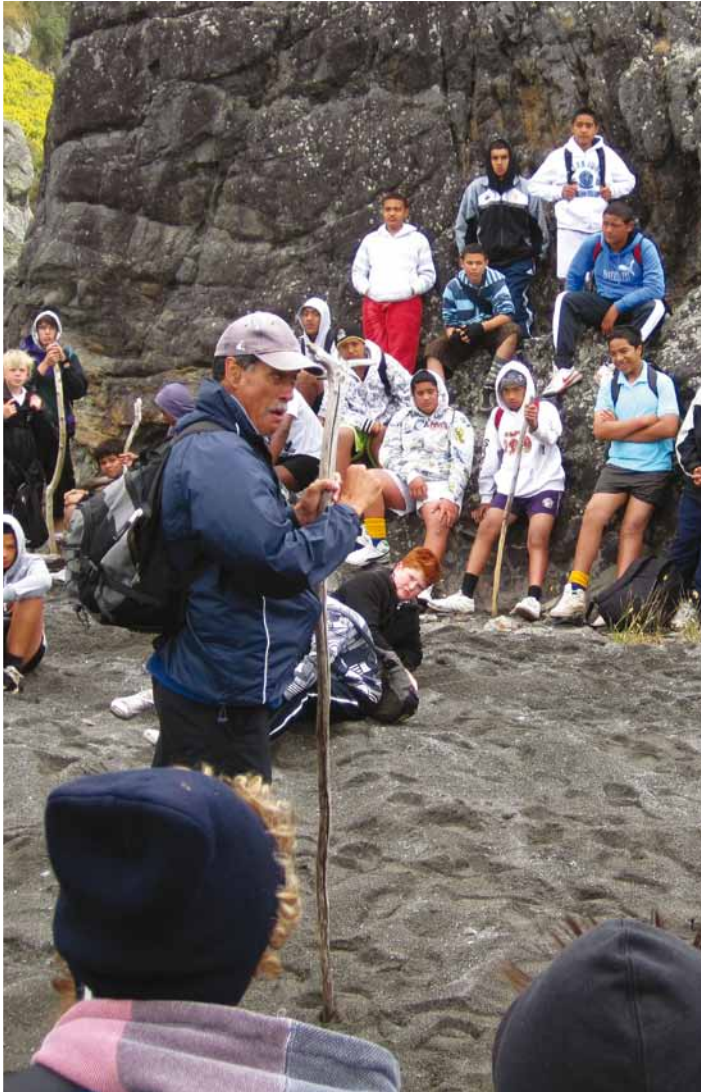
- Drama is part of the curriculum for Years 7 and 8 and is available as an option in later years.
- Drama productions showcase our boys' talents.
- Teams participate in the Wellington schools' debating competition.
- Speech competitions are held in the college for junior students.
- The O'Shea Shield weekend brings our debating, speaking and drama teams head-to-head with other colleges in the diocese.



Special Programmes

Education Outside the Classroom

- A two day alternative outdoor education programme for Years 7 to 10
- Years 7 and 8 day trips
- Peer support for Year 9
- Retreats for all students
- Orientation programme for Years 7 to 9
- Field trips related to study in many subjects



Facilities

St Bernard's has begun an upgrade of all facilities with recently constructed administration and technology blocks and a refurbished gymnasium.

This is not just about providing the best possible physical resources for our students. We are rebuilding the school to ensure that St Bernard's College students are given the best teaching in the finest training facilities available. They have, not just an equal chance with other people coming out of New Zealand schools, but a head start at excellence.



Our students enjoy our:

- Chapel
- Full-size gymnasium and assembly hall
- Science laboratories
- Well-equipped workshops
- Graphics and design rooms
- Food technology kitchen
- Music suite with keyboard laboratory
- Art room with kiln facility
- Two computer suites
- Networked computers throughout the college
- Library and information centre
- Careers centre
- Uniform shop
- Medical centre
- Canteen
- Three hectares of grass playing fields
- Two tennis courts
- Cricket practice nets
- Open-air basketball courts
- Three cricket wickets
- Rugby and football fields



St Bernard's College

183 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 560 9250 Fax: +64 4 560 9251

Email: office@sbc.school.nz Website: www.sbc.school.nz