





Per Aspera Ad Astrum - Through adversity to the star



P r o u d H i s t o r y

Southwell was named after the ancient cathedral and school in England. It was founded in 1911 by Mr C E Ferris with one boy. He was soon joined by another and they were taught in Mrs Melville's house in Melville. Mr Ferris planned the school from his school days at Trent Bridge in England where he played cricket for his county. In 1917 the governance of the school passed to the parents under the Chairmanship of Mr H S Hawkins and Mr H G Sergel was appointed Headmaster. In 1921 Mr Sergel bought the school from the parents' committee and moved the school to its present site. When he retired in 1945 he handed the ownership and control of the school to his family who, in 1963, formed a trust board which now owns and manages the school on a non-profit basis. The Fellows oversee the Trust Deed and meet each year on All Saints day.

Southwell is one of the original member schools of the Association of Preparatory Schools of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. At present it is the largest preparatory boarding and day school in New Zealand. During 1998 the Board announced that the school would open its gates to girls for the first time, in the year 2000.

Southwell School

Southwell is a preparatory school for boys and girls between five and fourteen years of age. It covers Year 1 to Year 8 of school. Boarders attend from Year 4.

Experience has shown that three or four years at a preparatory school as a boarder gives the best results even when a child later attends secondary school as a day student.



Southwell is at the forefront of preparatory education. It provides high quality education in a caring and supportive environment. The school seeks to help lay the spiritual, moral and physical foundations upon which children can build their future lives to contribute fully to society and to satisfy their aspirations as individuals. Southwell believes it is essential to stimulate interest and imagination so that the pursuit of knowledge becomes desired for its own sake. To prepare boys and girls for the next step in their lives, Southwell combines the attainment of knowledge and the power to think and reason with the discipline of hard work.

To attain these aims Southwell provides a highly trained teaching staff who are themselves men and women of imagination and ability.

Although great changes are taking place in education, Southwell holds certain fundamental principles which it is unlikely to surrender. Chief among them is the determination to express and live the Christian Faith and to choose the educational directions of the school to encourage a spirit of initiative.

Southwell combines a sense of tradition and excellence with a recognition that today's education must meet the needs of tomorrow's world. The school looks to turn out good all-round citizens who have a high self-esteem and are able to contribute to society.



The Southwell Community





Southwell is more than a school. It is a community of shared interests and an extended family for all who attend. The Southwell community encompasses boys and girls, their parents, teachers, staff, family relatives and friends and many others who have an association with the school. It provides a strong network of support for the boys and girls, for the school and for each other as individuals.



Informally, parents, relatives and friends participate actively in school life in many ways including sporting, cultural and academic events. Chapel services provide a regular focal point for many families and friends.

All parents and caregivers are eligible for membership of the *Southwell School Association*. The Association arranges social functions, lectures and discussions at various times throughout the year. The committee and officers are elected annually and the President of the Association is on the School's Trust Board.



The *Old Boys Association* was formed in 1951 and currently has over 1,000 members. This Association has donated many gifts which have improved the school's facilities including tennis courts, choir organ and pavilion.

Friends of Southwell includes all those who wish to have a continuing interest in the school. It was originally formed to support All Hallows Chapel and Friends Day continues to be commemorated with a chapel service.

The school encourages all parents, caregivers and their wider families and friends to participate in school life and become part of the Southwell community.

The School Environment

Southwell is a particularly attractive school. It occupies a beautiful site which is the Homestead of Woodend Estate near central Hamilton. In all there are about 30 acres of land laid out in a very attractive combination of excellent playing fields, exotic trees and four acres of native bush which have been surveyed and registered as a native reserve.

Both the old and new buildings of the school reflect the character, heritage and personality of the school and are closely attuned to the environment in which they stand. The facilities include a swimming pool, artificial turf with 6 tennis courts, learning centre, theatre, 2 computer laboratories, science laboratories, music room, art, design and technology block, gymnasium, auditorium, dining hall, 2 adventure playgrounds together with 3 rugby, 3 soccer and 1 hockey field.

Also in the grounds are All Hallows Chapel, the Administration Block, the Dormitory block, the Boarders Recreation block, the Headmaster's house, Chaplain's house and staff house.



Learning at Southwell

The development of education in the last few years has been to bring teaching closer to the reality and needs of the world we live in. This means that traditional subjects are seen and taught in a much wider context than formerly.

English is seen as a basic need and therefore has a heavy emphasis in the school.

Mathematics is fundamental to our existence as social beings rather than being seen as separate from the social world. Southwell seeks to encourage understanding and logical thought, coupled with careful calculation, by combining the valuable elements of both new and traditional maths.

An understanding of **Science** is essential in a world of scientific discoveries. Science therefore has a strong emphasis in our curriculum. In the upper school, the students have two years of science in the laboratories which include elements of chemistry, physics and biology.

Technology forms an important part of the school curriculum with emphasis placed on problem-solving skills. This area is also enhanced by leading computer hardware. Fibre optics are laid throughout the school with a computer in each classroom. The school also encourages accessing information and the use of computers through its 2 computer laboratories.



History is no longer simply a record of past events. Rather it is a study of truths about human behaviour and is linked closely to the Social Studies curriculum.

Social Studies combine the concepts of language and history with an emphasis on cultural differences and interaction. Social Studies are related to modern life as pupils are taught to look at themselves and their relationships with others.

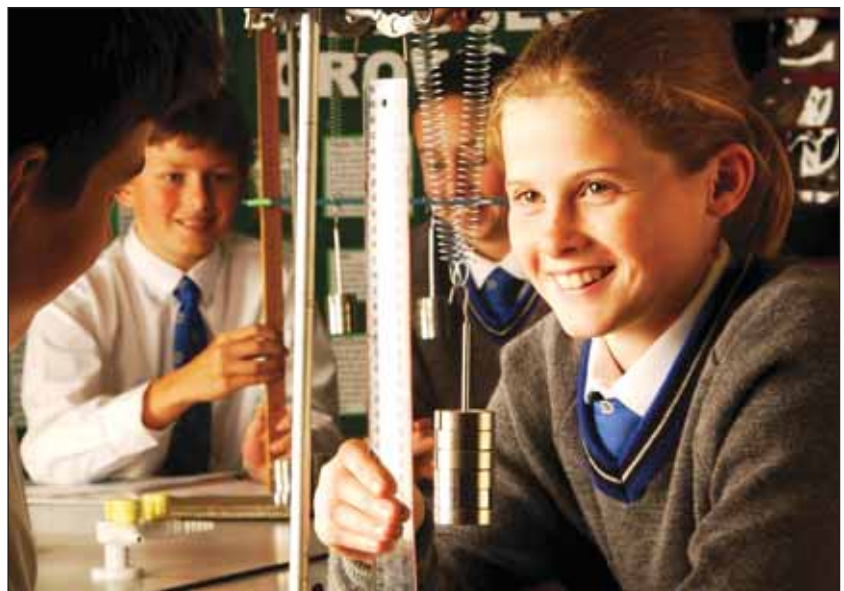
Through **Music, Art and Pottery**, children begin to discover themselves and find enjoyment in self-expression as well as produce results which are pleasing to others. Education through the arts is education for emotional maturity and allows the students to learn to express their feelings to others creatively and responsibly.

Physical Education and Sport are an important part of Southwell life. Saturday sport is compulsory for all students from Year 5 to Year 8.

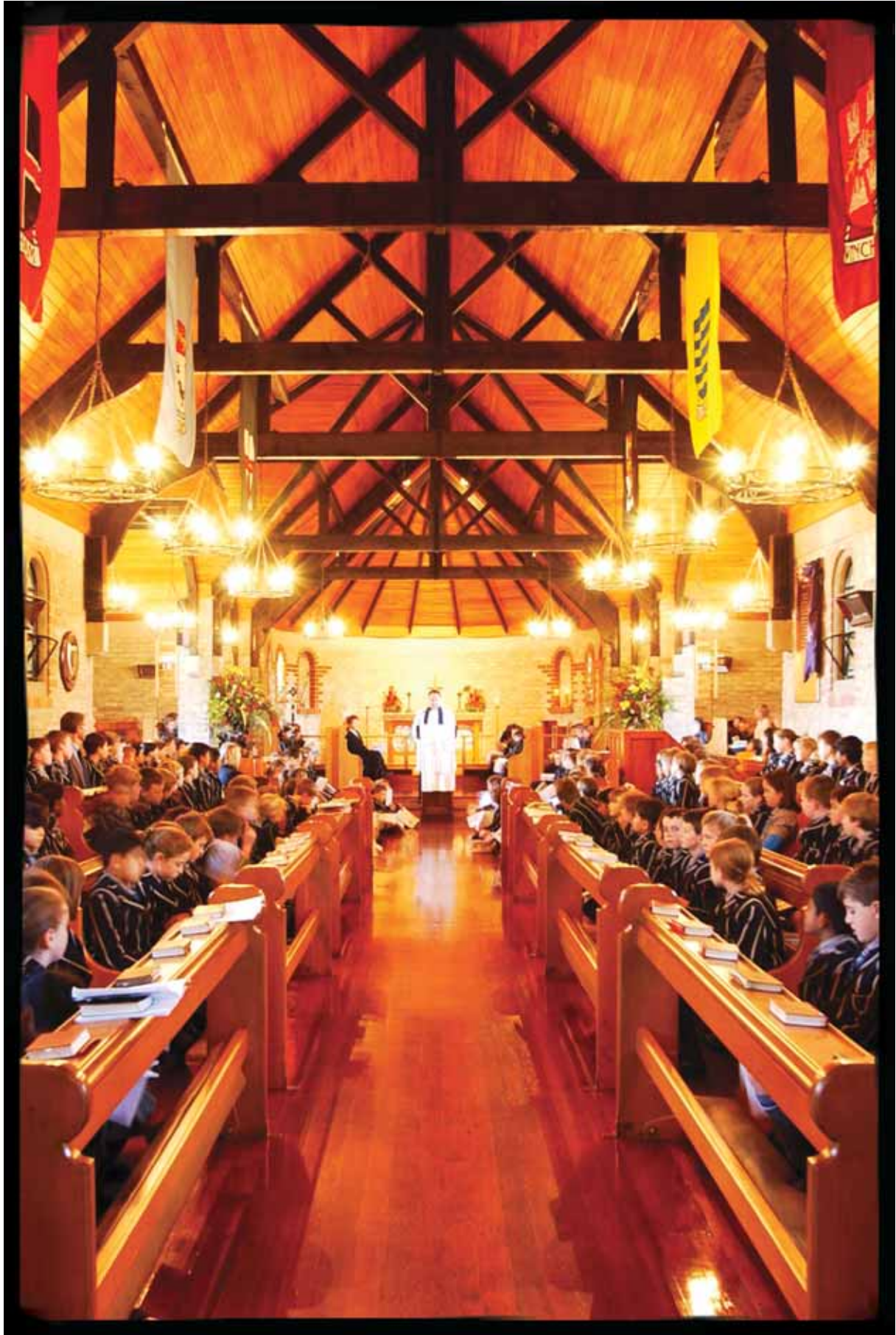
In addition to the courses which are available through the syllabus, specialist courses in instrumental music, remedial reading and speech are also offered. Students are trained to sit public examinations at the various grades for music and speech.

R e s o u r c e s & F a c i l i t i e s

Southwell is a well-equipped school. The majority of subjects are taught in rooms specially equipped for the purpose. The school has a total of 28 separate classrooms in five classroom blocks. It has a Learning Centre which includes the library, theatre, resource centre, computer laboratory and individual teaching rooms. There is a well-equipped assembly hall and music centre, and an art, design and technology block. Computers and other information media are available for all students to develop their skills. Each classroom is equipped with its own computer while the Learning Centre provides a focal point for information technology and is equipped with electronic data retrieval.



The Christian Faith



The Christian Faith implicitly underpins life at Southwell. The school has a resident Chaplain and its own chapel. Religious education lessons are Christian, bible-based and closely related to everyday life. Students are helped to understand aspects of the Christian tradition through discussions, stories, art, creative writing, analysis and questioning. Material is designed for each age group and covers the headings of Belonging, Caring, Forgiving, Thanking, Serving, Remembering and Hoping.

The school Chapel is unique and is a focal point for school life. It was erected by the work of former boys of the school. The boys made the bricks for the first part of the Chapel which was completed in 1926. A later generation made the bricks which were used to extend the Chapel and add a War Memorial Tower in 1952. A further extension has been completed in recent years. Again the bricks were made by the boys.

A two-manual pipe organ, a separate choir organ and a trained, robed choir sustains the fine musical tradition of school chapel services. The Chapel has a warm atmosphere which is totally in tune with the strong family focus of the school. Many families, friends and caregivers regularly attend for worship. Parents are expected to attend one Family Service per term as set for their children's year group.

Admission to Communion is offered each year. Communion is celebrated on important holy days and on Sunday mornings set down in the school calendar. The students attend a simple Chapel service each day in term time.



The Chapel Choir provides an opportunity for students to gain a firm grounding in choral singing and music. The Choir is widely respected and is often required to perform for special services, weddings at the Chapel and at special events. Over recent years the Choir has performed with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra at the Aotea Centre, at Te Papa and various cathedrals throughout New Zealand. The Choir has been recorded on various occasions.

Music & the Arts





Music plays an important part in the life of the school. Over 75 years ago Southwell began its tradition of staging its annual opera - the school's major presentation each year. Each performance requires a cast of about 150 and requires the dedication of staff and parents to produce.

Many students learn a musical instrument. The school has a comprehensive team of itinerant music teachers which means the school offers a wide range of options. All those who learn an instrument have the opportunity to play in the school orchestra, concert band or smaller string and wind groups. Every student who learns an instrument has the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

This Southwell tradition gives many students exposure to artistic pursuits and to learn the confidence which comes with performance.

Sport & Physical Education

Sport and physical education are an essential part of character development at Southwell and are compulsory from Year 5 to Year 8 except for medical exemptions. Coaching is provided by teachers on the school staff. This consistent and skillful coaching gives a high standard of performance. Students gain confidence and self-esteem through their participation. Team games also help the students to learn the lessons of team commitment and self-reliance. Matches are played with other preparatory, primary and intermediate schools on Saturday mornings. In summer the games are cricket, swimming, tennis and softball. Winter games are hockey, rugby and soccer. Athletic sports are held each spring and inter-house swimming, steeplechase, gymnastic and volley ball championships are also held.





Boarding at Southwell

Southwell has places for 80 boarders each year. Boarders are accepted from the age of 7 (Year 4) onwards. It is the aim of the school to provide a caring, home-like atmosphere for boarders. Their days are well-organised and ample time is allowed for them to pursue their own interests. Their cares and needs are catered for by a staff of Housemaster, Assistant Housemasters, Matron and four House Tutors.

The routines of the Boarding house have been well-established over the years and cater for the students' academic, social, physical and emotional growth and well-being. Boarders quickly develop a sense of independence, an awareness of community-living and the need to care for others.

Southwell has six houses each with a House Leader. All students, both boarders and day students, are allocated to a particular House. This provides a number of opportunities for boarders and day students to mix fully outside the classroom. Students earn points for their house on the sports field and in the classroom. Inter-house sports events create great enthusiasm amongst the students.





Boarders can choose from a wide selection of activities which are offered during the year. They may include such diverse subjects as model-making, chess, martial arts, needlecraft, pottery, golf and other crafts. The school has a large, well-stocked library and, besides class periods each week, it is open in the students' spare time and during homework.

The school has its own doctor who visits regularly. The doctor also provides advice and guidance on the physical welfare of boarders. It is not desirable that family doctors should attend any boarder without first consulting the Headmaster and the school's doctor. Minor ailments and injuries are treated by Matron who is a trained nurse.

No boarder is allowed outside school without "leave". Leave weekends are arranged each term and the students are allowed out after sport. Students must know well beforehand whether parents, friends or relatives are coming for them so that a Leave List can be made. Parents are encouraged to install a fax machine for communication to and from school.



The Choice of a Lifetime

Southwell Preparatory School offers an opportunity for boys and girls to receive a high quality education and a great start in life.

- The pupil teacher ratio is 1:15
- Pupil numbers are 600-650
- Accommodation for 80 boarders from Year 4
- High standards of education & care
- Strong school community
- High standards of educational, sporting and artistic facilities
- Over 80 years of tradition

Parents are invited to bring their sons and daughters for an interview with the Headmaster. Such facilities, staffing and environment are seldom found at any school. Southwell is proud of its performance over the years and is well placed to continue developing children's futures.

