ST THOMAS

OF CANTERBURY COLLEGE

EDUCATED HEARTS, EDUCATED MINDS

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS

NEW ZEALAND



Principal's Welcome

Greetings,

My name is Steve Hart, and it is my privilege to welcome you to St Thomas of Canterbury College.

Choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions a family can make for their son. For international students, it is the beginning of an exciting journey filled with hope, opportunity, and expectation.

Our students come from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, yet they are united by a shared sense of belonging and purpose. Every young man who joins St Thomas becomes part of a community where he is known, valued, and supported.

I wish you every success as you choose the right school for your son. I hope his journey to New Zealand is filled with the type of opportunities that help him become the very best version of himself.

Kind regards,

Steve Hart

Steve Hart
PRINCIPAL

Educated Hearts,
Educated Minds.

Christchurch

Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Alps, Christchurch is a vibrant and welcoming city known for its natural beauty, outdoor lifestyle and strong sense of community.

With a strong sense of community, Christchurch offers international students a safe and supportive environment in which to live, learn and grow.

'Christchurch is more than a location, it is where your St Thomas' journey begins.'







Academic Excellence

At St Thomas of Canterbury College, we believe that every student should strive to attain the highest qualification at school - University Entrance. Our most recent results have proudly placed us academically at the top of all boys' schools in the South Island of New Zealand.

2025 NCEA RESULTS

COMPARED TO NATIONAL BOYS' AVERAGE

	ST THOMAS RESULT	NATIONAL AVERAGE
UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE UE	87%	43%
LEVEL 3	92%	67%
LEVEL 2	85%	70%
LEVEL 1	86%	69%



Brotherhood
Justice and Solidarity

Compassion
Gospel Spirituality

Brotherhood

At St Thomas of Canterbury College, brotherhood is more than a word, it is the foundation of who we are.

Our students come from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, yet they are united by a common purpose: to learn, to grow, and to contribute to something greater than themselves.

Every student who joins St Thomas becomes part of a community where they are known, valued, and supported. A community where together, success is celebrated, challenges are faced and lifelong friendships are built.

'A brotherhood that begins at school and lasts a lifetime.'

Legacy
Liberating Education

Manawa
Inclusive Community



Our Special Character

A CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR YOUNG MEN

St Thomas of Canterbury College is a Catholic boys' school, in the tradition of Edmund Rice, where faith, learning and service come together.

Our Special Character gives direction and purpose to all that we do, forming young men of faith, compassion, character and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world.





Wellbeing

We place a strong focus on the wellbeing of every student, supporting their mental, emotional, social and spiritual growth so they can learn, thrive and achieve their potential.

NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL

St Thomas of Canterbury College is proud to be the very first Lighthouse School in New Zealand, recognised for our leadership and commitment to student wellbeing.

TE WHARE RAMA POD

Te Whare Rama Pod (meaning House of Light) is a calm, nature-inspired space built into our grounds where students can pause, regulate their emotions and reset.

Not a therapy room, but a sanctuary, with tools such as:

- Cocoon seating with weighted blankets
- Guided breathwork
- Coaching conversations
- Grounded mats
- Infra-red light therapy

'Creating a place where every young man feels safe, supported and emotionally resilient.'



Outdoor Education

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

St Thomas of Canterbury College offers a dynamic Outdoor Education programme that challenges students, builds resilience and develops leadership, teamwork and lifelong outdoor skills in New Zealand's unique backcountry.

Through a range of practical, adventure-based experiences, students learn to be capable, confident and responsible in the outdoors while gaining valuable academic credits (NCEA Level 2).

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- Tramping
- Mountain Biking
- Rock Climbing
- Alpine Skills
- Weather Interpretation
- Survival & Map Skills
- Outdoor Management
- Surfing & Skiing

Programme Overview



TERM 1

- **Overnight Tramping** - develop the skills and preparation for a multi-day outdoor experience.
- **Grade 2 Mountain Biking** - building riding skills in off-road terain.
- **Outdoor Management** - plan, prepare and manage an outdoor activitity
- **Surfing** – building technical skills, confidence and ocean safety.

TERM 2

- **Beginner Rock Climbing and Belaying** - learn safe climbing and belay techniques (Ewbank Grade 12 and above)
- **Mountain Bike Maintenance -** set up and undertake basic maintenance of a mountain or cycle touring bike.
- **Weather Survival and Map Skills -** understand weather information, learn introductory survival skills and use maps in the outdoors.



TERM 3

- **Alpine Movement** - develop basic movement skills on low-angled mountain terrain
- **Snow Shelters** - plan and construct a snow shelter as part of alpine skills.
- **Weather Interpretation** - apply weather knowledge to outdoor activities
- **Group Contribution** - demonstrate how personal contribution supports effective teamwork and group functioning in an outdoor setting.
- **Skiing/Snowboarding** - building technical skills and safety in snow sports

STC International Rugby Program

The STC International Rugby Programme is designed for students who are passionate about rugby and want to develop their skills while experiencing life and education in New Zealand.

Students have access to specialist coaching, strength and conditioning, skill development, leadership opportunities and academic support within the wider St Thomas school environment.







PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Strength and conditioning classes
- Sport-specific coaching and skill development
- Leadership and character development
- Performance analysis and goal setting
- Nutrition and mental skills development
- English and academic support





‘I have learnt so much and made many friends playing rugby at St Thomas’. I highly recommend students to study overseas as it helps improve your confidence and independence.’

Rei Shirakawa (Japan)

Sport

For many international students, sport becomes one of the quickest ways to connect with others, experience New Zealand culture, and become part of the St Thomas brotherhood.

Our sporting programme provides opportunities for every student to participate, compete, and develop as young men. Whether representing the College at the highest level or joining a team for the first time, students learn the values of commitment, resilience, teamwork, and leadership.





'opportunities for every student to participate, compete, and develop.'

Sporting Opportunities

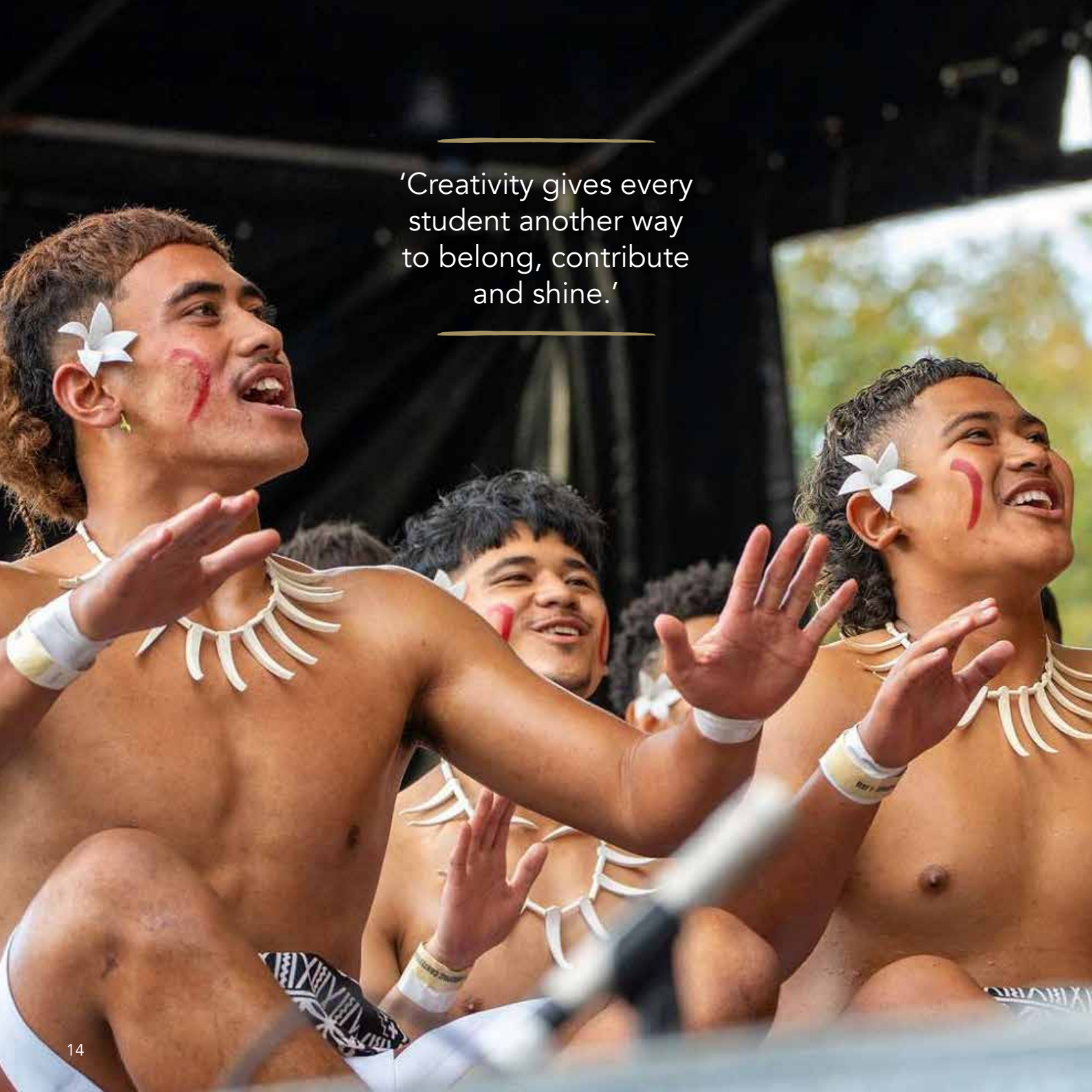
Opportunities for every student:

TEAM SPORTS

- Rugby
- Rugby League
- Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Volleyball

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

- Rowing
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Mountain Biking
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Golf


'Creativity gives every
student another way
to belong, contribute
and shine.'



Arts & Culture

At St Thomas of Canterbury College, the arts provide students with opportunities to express themselves, build confidence and discover new talents.

Through music, performance, cultural groups and creative experiences, students are encouraged to participate, collaborate and contribute to the life of the College.





Your Home in New Zealand

Living with a New Zealand homestay family is an important part of the international student experience. It provides students with a safe, welcoming home environment while giving them the opportunity to experience everyday New Zealand life and culture.

Homestay families provide care and support, help students settle into life in Christchurch, and often share local experiences, meals and activities together.





WHAT'S INCLUDED IN HOMESTAY

- Live in a New Zealand home
- Experience New Zealand Culture
- Safe and caring families
- Food and internet provided
- Speak English every day

'Enjoy a safe home environment while experiencing New Zealand life and culture.'



How to Enrol

1

APPLY ONLINE

Complete the St Thomas of Canterbury College international student online application.

2

APPLICATION REVIEW

Our International Department will review the application and supporting information.

3

OFFER OF PLACE

Successful students receive, upon payment, a confirmed Offer of Place.

Scan the QR code to begin your online international application.

CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL TEAM

+64 3 348 7010 international@stc.school.nz www.stc.school.nz


ST THOMAS
VIRTUTE SCIENTIAM COMPLETE



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OF CANTERBURY COLLEGE

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