



SAMUEL
MARSDEN
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS

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INSPIRING A LOVE OF LEARNING



Marsden offers an educational experience where attitudes and values are fostered that will prepare students for happy and stimulating lives.

Students are encouraged to strive for excellence in their academic, cultural and sporting pursuits; to value creative innovative and independent thinking; and to understand their responsibilities as local and global citizens. Our focus at Marsden is a balanced education that brings out the best in each individual and equips students to be valuable, contributing members of the community.

J L Williams, Principal

HISTORY

Our school was established by Mrs Mary Ann Swainson in 1878 for girls from Wellington and the surrounding countryside. The name Samuel Marsden Collegiate commemorates the first Anglican missionary to New Zealand. Building and technological development have enabled us to lead students confidently into the future for more than 130 years. What has endured and flourished through the school's long history are a culture in which learning is valued, loved and celebrated, and a spirit which sets us apart from other schools.

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Our family

‘The school offers carefully designed educational programmes that are underpinned by its vision to foster a ‘warm, caring, Christian environment which challenges all students to reach their potential. A strong ethos of nurturing the social and spiritual development of each student is evident.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



Our family

‘A culture of achievement continues to be maintained and celebrated through a range of school-wide systems. Teachers are encouraged to inspire the love of learning and foster self confidence.’

Education Review Office Report 2008

Relationships sit at the heart of all we do at Marsden. They underpin the achievements of the girls and the vitality of our spirit.

Present and past pupils, staff, parents and board members are loosely connected through the strands that make us ‘the Marsden family’. This affectionate name captures our spirit, our concern for each other and the pride we share in our school.

STUDENTS

Students travel from all parts of the Greater Wellington region to attend Marsden and we also have a number of girls from overseas who stay with local families.

Our admission criteria are non-selective, and while our academic results lead the country year after year, this is not the only way we measure achievement. A vibrant school culture promotes widespread participation in a range of activities. Happiness, health and a positive attitude are important indicators of well-being.

We acknowledge that academic success does not come easily to all students, but with conscientious and creative teaching, Marsden girls are encouraged to achieve their personal best.

STAFF

Marsden has a professional and highly qualified staff committed to maintaining the philosophy and standards of the school. Classes rarely have more than 25 students and frequently have fewer than 20, enabling teachers carefully to nurture and monitor the progress of each individual student. Their caring and dedicated approach is reflected in the excellent results achieved by our students.

PARENTS

The very active Parents’ Association works to support the school, to foster friendship amongst parents, to fundraise for improved facilities and to organise social events. Inclusive school activities, such as shared breakfasts, promote a family atmosphere.

The Development Office co-ordinates the school’s fundraising activities and has as its core the desire to celebrate and encourage generosity at Marsden.

The Office also supports the fundraising, parent education and social activities of our volunteers in the Parents’ Association, Old Girls’ Association and sports clubs.

PAST STUDENTS

Girls develop life-long friendships at Marsden and the vitality of the Old Girls’ Association, which actively supports the school, is a tribute to this. The strong connections that link Old Girls to our school frequently brings them back to visit and inspire the students of today.

Our family

‘Teachers show a high level of interest in students’ progress, achievement and well-being. They make the time to assist, nurture and support students in reaching their potential across a wide range of academic, cultural, physical and social experiences.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



Our spirit

‘Pastoral care continues to be a strength of the school’s provision for international students who understand that they have the choice of at least four people to whom they may turn for advice or assistance.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



Our spirit

‘If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.’

John Quincy Adams



PASTORAL CARE

Our spirit is the tangible difference. The strong pastoral care network at Marsden ensures individual strengths and needs are recognised and nurtured. This network includes teachers, form teachers, chaplain, counsellor and nurse, and is overseen by deans. A concern for the social and emotional development of every student is part of our special character. Students who are happy at school will do well.

LEADERSHIP

There are leadership opportunities at each year level. In year 13 every student has a leadership role. This may involve leading their House, a sport, a music group or one of our committees. Their enthusiasm and mentoring promotes widespread participation and ensures that students throughout the school know each other. The development of leadership skills is actively promoted.

PARTNERSHIP

We believe students achieve best when school and home are in close partnership. Regular communication by email keeps parents up to date with school activities. Newsletters, parent teacher meetings and the website are other important avenues of communication. At Marsden we encourage open and positive contact between parents and school.

VALUES

Fundamental to our school philosophy are the Christian values of honesty, integrity, responsibility, reliability, respect for others, tolerance, diligence, commitment, compassion and fairness. They are recognised and practised through the weekly Virtue programme, regular chapel services and assemblies, and are modelled through our everyday actions.

Our day

‘Students demonstrate high levels of engagement in their lessons and contribute willingly and confidently to discussions. Positive, respectful and courteous interactions with and between students are evident.’

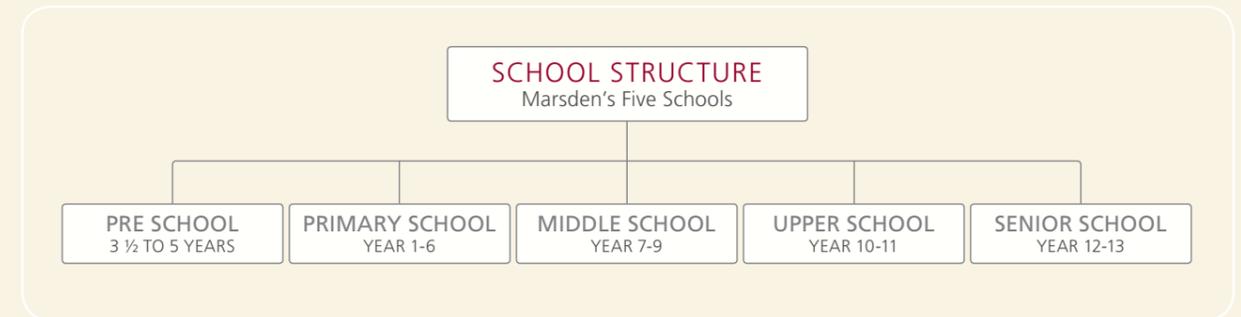
Education Review Office Report 2008



Our day

‘Through the special Christian character, the girls are taught values and virtues that foster good citizenship, care for each other and the environment. A strong sense of belonging and respect for traditions continue to be a key feature of life at Marsden School.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



CURRICULAR

A broad and balanced curriculum is offered, providing learning opportunities and experiences to stimulate the intellectual, creative, cultural, sporting, social and spiritual development of every individual.

The New Zealand Curriculum guides Marsden's programmes. Students are encouraged to be thinkers, to make connections across learning areas and to apply their learning to contexts outside the classroom.

Students are given the opportunity to explore a diverse range of subjects and are encouraged to keep their options open for the future.

Subject-based classes are taught from Year 7 by specialist teachers. In Years 7 and 8 students receive daily tuition in English and Mathematics. They have access to specialist teaching spaces, such as science and technology laboratories, art rooms, the food and design technology rooms, and our Sports Centre. Students sample four languages, and later are able to choose one or more of these as option subjects. All students experience a range of practical subjects such as Technology, PE and Art which also become options in later years. At senior levels the sciences, humanities and visual arts branch into a range of discrete subjects (such as Chemistry, Classical Studies and Photography) which enable students to focus more specifically on subjects that are of special interest, strength or enjoyment to them. All students participate in the Religious Education programme. In addition, an innovative Ethics programme is taught at senior level.

CO-CURRICULAR

Our belief in providing girls with a broad variety of experiences means that Marsden offers an extensive co-curricular programme. Recent studies have shown that there is a direct correlation between participation in co-curricular activities and improved academic performance.

SPORTS

The sports department offers over 20 different sports, and caters for interests as diverse as rowing, shooting, hockey and orienteering. We regularly have girls representing the school in local, national and international competitions.

MUSIC

Music is an important part of life at Marsden. Alongside our academic offerings we have numerous performance groups. Specialist teachers ensure girls can have private tuition in the instrument of their choice whilst at school.

PERFORMING ARTS

The school production is highly anticipated every second year, along with Stage Challenge.

Speech and Drama lessons are also valued. Girls are involved in many other activities including debating, ICT interest groups and magazine production.

Our opportunities

‘The school’s philosophy of challenging and extending students to pursue personal excellence is reflected in its day-to-day operation. Those who are clearly identified as requiring additional needs or extension are provided with strong learning and pastoral care support.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



Our opportunities

‘Playing with the children in the sandpit at the Aids orphanage was an experience I will never forget. They laughed and played like happy kids in New Zealand and yet their lives have been so tragic and their future is uncertain.’

Member of Marsden hockey team, on tour in South Africa 2008

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Artist-in-Residence programme is highly valued and runs each year with the support of Mercedes Benz Wellington Star. A selected practising artist works in the Art House with students from throughout the school for several weeks. The culmination of the visit is a stimulating art exhibition.

The Composer-in-Residence programme is based in the Music Department, and assists students with the production of works for performance.

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

An awareness of the importance of developing a global perspective ensures there are opportunities for travel. Examples include language exchanges, the Global Youth Leadership Conferences in Europe and the US, and the Science and Technology Forums in Australia and London. Student study tours and opportunities to support those in developing countries are a feature of the Marsden experience.

Working with ‘real’ artists and musicians is very beneficial for students, enabling theory studied in class to be seen in practice and context.



‘Marsden has created a wonderful balanced environment where I belong, as part of a vibrant learning community. I know that my unique contribution and development as an individual is celebrated and there is a strong culture of excellence which inspires me to confidently pursue my dreams and goals.’ Chara Sherwood

Our opportunities

‘The strategic approach to property development enables the character of the school environment to be protected while ensuring a range of high quality, purpose-built facilities for the delivery of the curriculum.’

Education Review Office Report 2008



Our opportunities

‘A great attitude does much more than turn on the lights in our worlds; it seems to magically connect us to all sorts of serendipitous opportunities that were somehow absent before the change.’

ENCOURAGEMENT

Girls are encouraged to participate in local, national and international events and competitions that may be linked to their academic, sporting, musical and cultural pursuits. We value connections made within our local communities and beyond our shores. Through projects, research and service, both virtual and in real time, girls are encouraged to be responsible and contributing global citizens.

OUR OLD GIRLS

The success of our Old Girls is testimony to the preparation Marsden gives to students for the challenges of the future – the ability to be valuable and contributing members and leaders of the global community.



Year 10 sculpture 'What is Art?' >>

Our environment

‘How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.’

Anne Frank



Beyond school

‘Marsden offered me a superb learning environment and encouraged me to try many different subjects, sports as well as community and cultural activities. In particular it encouraged me to set high academic goals and engage in voluntary work – two of the key attributes which helped me to obtain internships in the United Nations and a Rhodes Scholarship.’

Nina Hall, 2002 graduate and Rhodes Scholar 2008



MARSDEN GREEN

Marsden Green is a school-wide initiative to foster awareness and take action with regard to our environment. Students and staff work together, through activities such as sustainable gardening, worm farming, recycling, community conservation and restoration projects.



This publication uses papers sourced from sustainable well-managed forests, and vegetable based inks.

The majority of our school leavers choose to go on to tertiary education, either in New Zealand or overseas. Strong academic results combine with commitment to ensure that Marsden students are frequent recipients of highly sought-after university and corporate scholarships and awards.

As girls look to the future, the opportunities are limitless. Their academic success and self-confidence prepares them to take an exciting place in the world.



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