



Woodford House

At Woodford House our clear moral purpose as a school is based on the Christian faith educating young women to live and lead extraordinary lives. As a special character school, our foundation lies on the strong Christian values, ethos and heritage.

(Mrs. Julie Peterson, Principal)

Our Chapel is centered at the heart of our school. It is a place where we gather to pray and worship as a school community. It is a sacred 'still point' of the day amongst all the busyness that goes on in the life of our school community.

We are a school that celebrate the traditions of the liturgical calendar as well as celebrating topical world - wide humanitarian issues. E.g. recently we held a special prayer service for the people of Nepal. This was followed by a mufti day, organised by the Service Team, to raise funds for aid in the earthquake areas of Nepal.

Each year we begin our services in Chapel with our Founders service, giving thanks to God for the foundation and establishment of Woodford House. This service is always followed by our Campus Blessing where each area of the school receives a blessing and takes a prayer card back to their departments. We are reminded that Gods blessings are on each of our learning areas, Spiritual, Academic, Cultural and Sporting. The Reverend Bryan Carey, Vicar of St Luke's in Havelock North was involved in this service, recognizing our link with the local Anglican Parish.

This year the prefects helped lead the very popular Shrove Pancake Race. A great majority of the students were present. There was loads of fun and prizes and it was great way to move in to the season of Lent. At our Ash Service the Prefects helped with distributing of the ashes, role modelling servant leadership.

Krizzia Del Rosario is the 2015 Chapel Prefect and has a huge team of over 60 girls. Students are rostered for Chapels to help with the smooth running of services.

In Chapel and Religious Studies classes our school is constantly reminded of 'love your neighbour, as you love yourself'. Students are encouraged to grow in their concern for others and be involved in community initiatives that make a difference.

The Chapel Prefect and other students actively involved themselves in the 'Relay for Life' held at Sports Park. This was coordinated by the Services Committee and Sports Department. We have also helped fundraise for an Orphanage in Russia. And we have held a successful harvest Appeal with proceeds going to the local Food Bank.

A new website for Woodford House has been launched with funding raised from the Winter Solstice Dinner. The four cornerstones of the school are highlighted. Spiritual, Academic, Cultural and Sport.

In April a successful joint Havelock North schools ANZAC WW100 event entitled 'We Will Remember Them' was held at the Havelock North Domain. Students from seven Havelock North Schools met on the village domain for a significant and memorable service.

At the beginning of Term 2, Mrs Julie Peterson was commissioned as our new Principal. We look forward to her Leadership and guidance.

Other important services this year have been the annual attendance at St John's Cathedral in Napier. This is a compulsory service for the whole school and a link for us to be connected with the wider Diocese.

In May a memorial service was held in our Chapel to give thanks for the life of one of our late Boarding managers who worked as a Boarding Matron in the houses for four years and was Boarding Manager for 14 years. Mrs Beryl Black will be remembered for her kind and caring manner with both boarders and parents alike and was often known as the 'Mother away from home'

Twice a term or more, members from the Chapel team and other students volunteer their services, offering cheerful help on a Sunday morning at the Hawke's Bay Hospital. Patients are carefully wheeled to the Chapel to attend a morning service led by one of the rostered duty Chaplains.

On Fridays in Chapel we have been enjoying Homeroom Services. Our homeroom groups are 'family sized' and made up of girls across the year levels, who form strong supportive ties. These Friday services have replaced what used to be called 'Form Class Chapels'. Each House have a chosen Value topic e.g. Love and Forgiveness and share this at the service.

Our last service for Term Two, was a combined schools service. We welcomed Te Aute College and Hukarere Girls' College and enjoyed "Celebrating Matariki through song and prayer."

At Woodford we believe that one of the ways Christianity is best expressed is through service to others. It is our hope that students learn that freely giving themselves to the service of others is a lifelong and highly rewarding opportunity.

The Reverend Joy Hamilton-Jones, Chaplain