



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"If the children are given a Krishna Conscious education from early childhood, then there is great hope for the future of the world" -A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



"Everything should be done on the basis of love. Strictness is not very good. The students should act out of love, that is wanted". -Srila Prabhupada



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Please follow our "Parents of the Hare Krishna School" FB page for pictures, notices and more..

SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:

## TERM HIGHLIGHTS AT HKS



### School Board's Update

Find the update from our School's Board of Trustees and the School's Proprietor on Pg. 3



### Gaura Purnima

We held a beautiful festival for Gaura Purnima. See more on Pg.11



### Poetry Recital

Results from the Poetry Recital on Pg. 12

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share that our school community has continued to grow this term, now welcoming over 180 students from Years 1 to 10. We also have several students set to join us at the beginning of Term 2.

This term, our senior students have moved into the newly refurbished high school building block. To mark this momentous occasion, we held a small fire yagna to bless the students in their learning and sanctify the new learning space.

We are thrilled to welcome Madhu Malati Mataji to the Hare Krishna School High School this term. With over 35 years of teaching experience in science and math, we are fortunate to have her join our team. I would also like to express appreciation for our high school teachers led by Manada mataji for their work on our new NCEA curriculum.

As we celebrate new beginnings, we must also bid farewell to Madhava Sangini Mataji, our Year 8 teacher, as she leaves for a few months on maternity leave. We are grateful for her dedication and contributions to our school community and look forward to her return. In the meantime, we warmly welcome Dina Dayala Mataji, who will be stepping in to teach Year 8 during Madhava Sangini's absence.

We had a wonderful Gaura Purnima celebration this term, where our students presented their class offerings beautifully. Some classes performed Vaishnava bhajans, while others recited poems. Our Mayapur Class (Year 7) even put on a charming drama skit explaining why the Lord came to Earth as Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. A special thank you to those parents and family members who were able to join us for the celebration.

In line with our curriculum theme, our house event featured a poetry recital, where students from Years 4 through 8 delivered poems that focused on key assessment criteria such as presentation skills and content understanding. The winning house will earn valuable points from this event.

Wishing everyone a restful holiday break and looking forward to Term 2!

Yours in service,

Dharma-setu Dasa  
Principal  
Hare Krishna School



HARE KRISHNA SCHOOL

# Board of Trustees Update

Hare Krishna,  
Please accept my humble obeisances.  
All Glories to Srila Prabhupada.

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all our wonderful students and staff for 2025! We hope you had a fantastic break and are ready for an exciting new year filled with learning and growth.

Welcome Our New Board Member

We are delighted to introduce our new board member, Madhu Puri Devi Dasi. We are confident that she will bring valuable insights and energy to our school community.

School Growth

Our school continues to grow, and we are thrilled to announce that our new classroom building was completed for the start of term 1. This additional space will provide a better learning environment for our students and support our ongoing commitment to educational excellence.

Celebrating Last Year's Success

We had a fantastic year in 2024, and we are proud to share our students' achievements:

- Reading: 89% of students are at or above the expected curriculum level for their age.
- Writing: 80% of students are at or above the expected curriculum level for their age.
- Maths: 89% of students are at or above the expected curriculum level for their age.

These results are a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teachers.

Looking Forward

As we look ahead, we want to remind our community that the school board will be holding their Triennial election in September. We encourage parents to consider putting themselves forward for the board election. Your involvement is crucial in shaping the future of our school.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Let's make 2025 a great one!

Ys,  
Krishna Das  
Presiding Member on the Board of Trustees





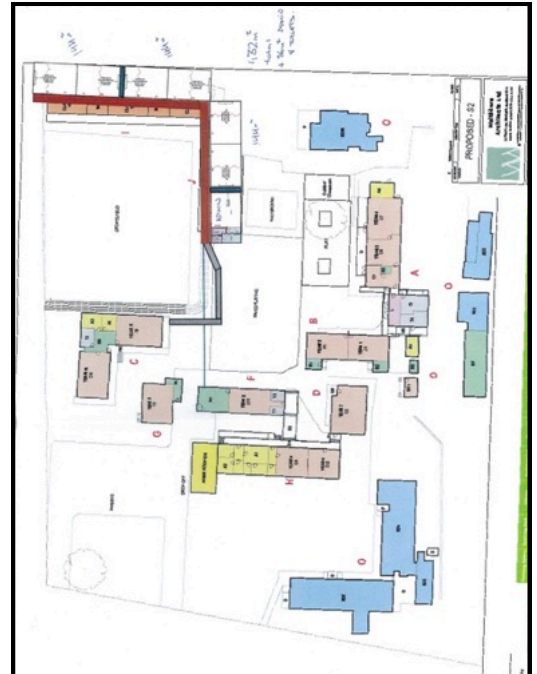
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# Curriculum Highlights

## Junior School



### Year 1

This Term, our students have been actively practicing breaking apart and adding together groups of objects. By using manipulatives like natural materials, they are able to investigate this concept which contributes to developing a solid understanding of it.

Hands-on activities not only reinforce math skills but also promote critical thinking and collaboration. Students are encouraged to work together, sharing strategies and explaining their thought processes to one another. We invite parents to extend this learning at home with similar activities using everyday objects. Thank you for your support in fostering our students' mathematical growth!

### Year 2

The Krsna-Balaram class explored the theme "Me, Connected in Me and My Family" through a self-portrait lesson that focused on both outer and inner selves. Students drew their faces, learning to depict facial features using simple shapes and experiment with expressions like happiness and sadness while using mirrors for observation. They also reflected on their personalities and unique qualities, helping them connect their physical appearance with their deeper identity. This activity fostered artistic skills and self-awareness, allowing for verbal and visual expression. It was a joy to see each student's self-portrait come to life, showcasing their individual identities and talents!



### Year 3

In Prabhupada class, we have been focusing on metric measurements in our maths lessons. The students have been actively engaged in learning how to estimate as well as use measuring rulers to determine actual lengths, heights, and widths.

Through a variety of hands-on activities, they've practiced converting between different metric units and have gained a better understanding of how to accurately measure objects around them. It's been fantastic to see the students' enthusiasm as they take on challenges in estimating and measuring!

### Year 4

This term in literacy, Year 4 has thoroughly explored various types of poetry and essential poetic devices such as simile and alliteration. Students crafted a range of original poems and participated in a house poetry competition, where they presented their creative shape poems. This experience fostered a sense of community and allowed the children to showcase their writing and performance skills while reinforcing their understanding of poetry. Overall, it has been a rewarding term focused on creativity and literary expression.



# Curriculum Highlights

## Middle & Intermediate School (Yr 5-8)

### Year 5

This term, we were learning about the Treaty of Waitangi and its impact on us today. We were fortunate enough to visit a Historical Village, where we got to see what the European settlers lived like from 1840 to 1880. We got to use a slate and slate pencils (made of soapstone or softer slate) and how they used an abacus to learn maths. This helped us compare to what Maori settlements would look like and what their schooling would look like. We continued this theme in our writing and explored a poem called 'Us' Annelies based on the Treaty. She wrote the poem in a mirror format. We learnt how slight changes in words can change the meaning of a text. We got to write haiku, cinquain, and free verse poems based on the treaty and things around us.



### Year 6

This term, we explored the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi, focusing on the key themes of promises and protection. We gained a deeper understanding of why the Treaty was created, the different perspectives of Māori and the British, and its lasting impact on Aotearoa New Zealand. Through discussions, research, and creative activities, we discovered why the Treaty remains an important document today. We expressed our thoughts and reflections by writing free verse poems inspired by the themes of unity, identity, and history.

In the final weeks of school, students will be engaging in an art project related to the Treaty of Waitangi, using creativity to reflect on its significance and meaning. It has been a wonderful unit that helped us appreciate the rich history of New Zealand and the importance of honouring agreements.

### Year 7

This term, our students embarked on two fascinating journeys of discovery. They delved into the rich history of Polynesian migration, conducting social science inquiries into traditional and modern navigation methods. Students honed their research skills, formulated their own inquiries, and mastered the art of academic report writing. They also explored New Zealand-based texts and engaged in comprehensive comprehension activities. To creatively showcase their learning, students produced a diverse range of artistic expressions, including detailed drawings, intricate clay work, insightful dioramas, and evocative poetry.



### Year 8

This term, as one part of our English curriculum, Year 8 have been working hard to refine their writing skills using the Writer's Toolbox tools. They have been learning about sentence structure, exploring different sentence types, and eliminating run-on and incomplete sentences. Students have also been experimenting with various tools, including the Writer's Toolbox online program and interactive Sentence Trains, which help them construct a range of sentence styles. As a result, I can see much improvement in their writing, and am excited to see how this flows into other curriculum areas.



# Curriculum Highlights

## High School Subjects



### English

In Year 9 English students have been studying war poetry. Students posed as interviewers and famous poets, creating questions and answers for a podcast or live interview with a poet. The students' interviews were not only entertaining and creative but reflected their knowledge and understanding of the purpose, themes and use of language in some famous war poems. They also wrote some great poems: a memory poem based on events in their life, a narrative poem about Krishna's pastimes and black out war poems.

In Year 10 students have been studying journey poems and writing postcard narratives and poems based on the journey theme. They are now studying formal writing to prepare for their NCEA literacy co-requisite exam.

In English, Year 11 students have been studying to become "expert" at identifying and understanding a context and explaining how this influences verbal language use. They have studied the language of identity in the sastra context, in the Māori context, the Pacific context and other contexts from around the world. In doing so, they have considered the perspectives and issues of different cultures as well as their own.



### Maths

In Year 9 Maths, students focused on statistics, utilizing a Statistical Enquiry cycle to analyze data, including dinosaur information from the Dinos of Patagonia exhibition at Te Papa Museum 2024. They successfully compared the weights of plant-eating and meat-eating dinosaurs and are currently studying number strategies.

In Year 10 Maths, students explored various data sets using statistical methods, including the Olympic Triathlon database from the 2020 Olympic Games. They are now preparing for their NCEA Numeracy co-requisite exam.

In Year 11, students employed statistical methods to analyze Census at School data, comparing travel times to school for years 9-13 across Auckland, Canterbury, Wellington, and the South Island. They also examined screen time differences between male and female students in NZ and are preparing for their NCEA Numeracy exam.



# Curriculum Highlights

## Senior School Subjects



### Art and Technology

This term, our Year 11 students have been immersed in a dynamic art project aimed at designing a unique art book. They have been capturing photographs of locations that inspire them, such as the ISKCON farm area, skateboard parks, and beautiful gardens, which they will translate into drawings and paintings.



In our technology lessons, students have been exploring the exciting world of design through computer-aided tools and 3D printing. The Year 9 students focused on creating functional desk tidies and personalized pencil cases, which they skillfully decorated to reflect their individual styles. Meanwhile, the Year 10 students took their creativity up a notch by developing impressive architectural designs. They embraced the opportunity to see their concepts come to life, utilizing modern manufacturing techniques and experiencing the thrill of transforming ideas into tangible products.

### Sastra

We had the wonderful opportunity to host H.H. Bhanu Swami, a travelling preacher at the high school, where he spoke on topics relevant to our curriculum.

In Year 9, Sastra students learned about Open Eyed Meditations, focusing on the balance between analysis and overanalysis, while drawing lessons from Rama and Arjuna and sketching Lord Nityananda's life.

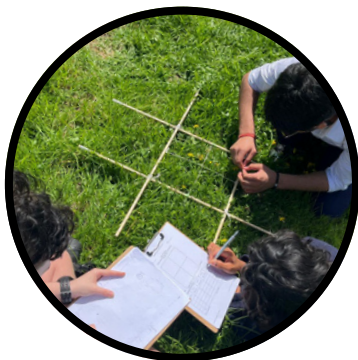
In Year 10, students explored the Magic of Friendships, comparing a shloka about loving exchanges to modern relationships. They created visuals of Lord Chaitanya and Lord Nityananda and performed kirtan and skits based on this topic.



### Science

Year 11 recently embarked on an exciting and hands-on exploration of local weed species, using quadrats to observe and measure their types and abundance. Equipped with the quadrats they thoughtfully crafted themselves, along with measuring tapes and clipboards, the students collaborated in teams to identify various weed plants within designated areas. This engaging activity not only fostered teamwork but also gave them valuable experience in ecological research techniques. It's been a wonderful opportunity for them to bring classroom learning to life through real-world application.

The primary goal of this field research was to deepen their understanding of the biodiversity in our local ecosystem and explore how different weed species affect the surrounding environment. By analysing the data collected, students gained insights into the prevalence of specific weeds and considered their impact on managing the school's paddock.





# Curriculum Highlights

## Other learning areas



### Technology and Outdoor classroom

In our outdoor class, students have been actively engaged in gardening and sampling fresh vegetables. They have successfully grown Snow Peas, which will be ready for harvest next term, along with Sweetcorn, which has just begun to flower. The students relished tasting fresh rhubarb, celery, and mint drizzled with a touch of honey. Everyone is eagerly anticipating the upcoming opportunity to plant potatoes, adding even more excitement to their gardening experience.



In our recent project, Year 7 students engaged in an exciting hands-on activity where they constructed intricate temple models using card and air-drying clay. The students began by carefully cutting and assembling the basic structure from flat card to create the foundational shape. They then showcased their creativity by crafting detailed spires and decorative elements using the clay. The final touch was the application of paint, which truly brought their designs to life, resulting in impressive and visually striking temple models that reflected their artistic talents.

### Sanskrit

The Sanskrit program at the school has continued progressing smoothly this term. Year 8 has now joined the growing community of Sanskrit learners and has even begun translating simple sentences into Sanskrit.

This term, the primary focus for all classes is mastering the Devanagari script, with special emphasis on writing the alphabet.

Additionally, all lessons, including poems and songs, are accompanied by instructional videos, with links provided to the students. Parents are encouraged to support their children in watching these videos, as they offer a valuable immersion experience that enhances understanding and accelerates language learning.



### Physical Education

This term in PE, we dived into the exciting world of striking and hitting games! From cricket to T-ball and other bat-and-ball activities, we honed our hand-eye coordination, teamwork, and strategic thinking. Each session challenged us to master techniques like timing our strikes, aiming for accuracy, and working collaboratively to outplay the opposing team. Along the way, we celebrated individual progress, cheered for group achievements, and most importantly, had a ton of fun! It's been a term full of energy, skill-building, and unforgettable moments on the field.

## First day at the Hare Krishna High School

On February 1st, the High School opened with an Orientation Day, which provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome our students into their new high school building. It was heartwarming to see our returning high schoolers and to greet the new students who joined our community.

To mark the auspicious beginning of the school year, we engaged a priest to perform a traditional fire yagna. This meaningful ritual was followed by a beautiful kirtan led by our Year 11 students, fostering a spirit of unity and celebration among all attendees.

Overall, this gathering served as a significant samskara, enriching our school's environment and laying a positive foundation for the academic year ahead. It was indeed a special occasion that reflected our commitment to both tradition and the well-being of our school community.



## Year 9-10's Museum Trip



This term, our Year 9 and 10 students embarked on an enlightening trip to the Auckland Museum to explore New Zealand's role in World War II. This experience was not just a field trip; it deepened their understanding of the sacrifices made by many New Zealanders during the war.

Upon arrival, students delved into the WWI exhibition, where they encountered artifacts like uniforms, weaponry, and personal letters from soldiers. These items helped to connect with the past and remember the individuals behind them. The workshop facilitated engaging discussions about the contributions of both men and women in the war, sparking thoughtful insights about courage and sacrifice.

In addition to WWI, students explored other museum collections, including indigenous Maori artifacts, highlighting New Zealand's rich cultural heritage. Overall, the visit was a fantastic success, providing valuable lessons about our history.



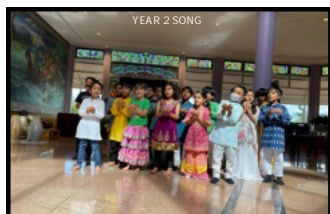


# Gaura Purnima at

This term, the Hare Krishna School held a vibrant event to celebrate the appearance of Lord Gauranga, bringing together the entire community. Students from different grades showcased their talents through bhajans, poems, and engaging drama skits depicting the Lord's pastimes and teachings.

The drama skits were particularly compelling, highlighting key moments from Lord Gauranga's life. The students' enthusiasm captivated the audience and underscored the values of compassion, love, and devotion he embodies.

This celebration honoured the Lord while fostering unity within our school community and reinforcing our commitment to His teachings. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this meaningful event!



# Nityananda Trayodasi

Early in the school Term, our senior class had the opportunity of leading the school assembly in celebration of Nityananda Trayodasi. Year 7 kicked off the festivities with a beautiful rendition of the bhajan "Nitai Pada Kamala," which translates to "the lotus feet of Lord Nityananda."

Following this heartfelt performance, the seniors lead the Guru Puja arati and lively kirtan, where everyone joined in, dancing and celebrating together. The atmosphere was filled with joy and devotion, making it a truly memorable festival for our entire school community.





# Poetry Recital- The first house event of the year

This term, we hosted a house event focused on a poetry recital that aligned with our literacy curriculum theme. Students from Years 4 through 9 participated, presenting speeches that showcased their understanding of assessment criteria such as presentation skills and content comprehension.

The event served as a platform for creativity and also featured a competition among the houses. Each performance highlighted the effort and abilities of our young poets and engaged the audience.

At the conclusion of the recital, the winning house was announced, earning points toward the overall house standings. Congratulations to Padma house for winning the 2025 poetry house event.



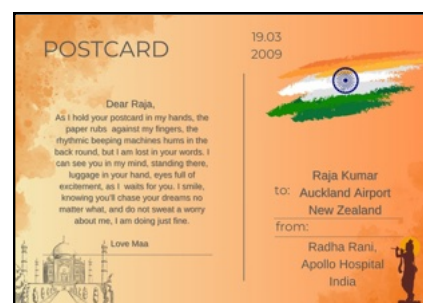
VOTED THE TOP 3 SLAM POETS FROM YEAR 7

## High School- Yr 10 Postcard Narratives



One of a series of postcards sent back and forth between mother and son while he was abroad.

The concept and design was done by Raima, from Year 10



One of a series of postcards sent back and forth between acquaintances on a dangerous, adventure.

The concept and design was done by Arnab, from Year 10



# Chesspower Visit

We are excited to share that ChessPower visited our school recently to introduce students in years 3-9 to the fascinating world of chess! The event was split into two engaging sessions, where Paul from ChessPower began by teaching the fundamentals of the game.

Following the introduction, students had the opportunity to practice their new skills on over 100 chess boards set up across the venue. It was wonderful to see so many students eager to learn and engage with chess! The enthusiasm and excitement in the room were truly contagious, and we are thrilled to hear such positive feedback about the experience.

As we look ahead, we're also thrilled to announce the possibility of starting a school chess coaching class! This is a fantastic opportunity for students to further develop their skills with the guidance of our trained professional coaches. We look forward to cultivating a love for chess in our students!



## Howick Historical Village Trip



This term, our Years 4-6 students had the opportunity to visit Howick Historical Village as part of their inquiry topic, "Te Tiriti o Waitangi." The trip provided a fascinating glimpse into life in Aotearoa New Zealand during the 1840s, allowing students to immerse themselves in the experiences of early settlers.



Throughout the day, students enjoyed playing traditional outdoor games, showcasing their skills in walking on stilts and bowling. One of the highlights of the visit was constructing wooden trolleys, which they eagerly rode down the slopes in teams.



Additionally, students had the chance to step into an olden-day classroom. Here, they participated in a brief lesson focused on writing and arithmetic, gaining insight into the educational practices of the time.

This trip was not only educational but also a lot of fun, fostering a sense of curiosity and appreciation for our history.



# HKS Years 7-10 Camp at Houghtons Bush



As the first term comes to a close, we want to share the exciting experiences our Year 7-10 students had during their three-day adventure at Houghton's Bush Camp. This trip was designed to promote teamwork, challenge students, and foster personal growth.



The camp kicked off with a thrilling day at Tree Adventures, where students confronted their fears on high ropes courses and ziplines. Many stepped out of their comfort zones, gaining confidence as they encouraged one another and celebrated individual achievements. The sense of camaraderie was evident, reinforcing the importance of support within our school community.

The adventure continued with an orienteering challenge in the bush. Armed with maps, students navigated through rough terrains, which helped them develop problem-solving skills and resilience while working as a team. This activity not only enhanced their spatial awareness but also highlighted the significance of collaboration in reaching shared goals.



Meal times were enriched with delicious prasadam, and students actively maintained their shared living spaces, demonstrating responsibility and teamwork. Each evening included spiritual activities such as uplifting kirtan and aarti, coupled with enjoyable Krishna conscious games like charades that contributed to a joyful atmosphere.



Despite heavy rain on the second day, our students persevered with their spirits high. They tackled the "Amazing Racing" activity, building mountain bikes and participating in various adventure games. The warmth of tea and cookies provided comfort, while indoor board games offered a chance to unwind. The day wrapped up with another delightful kirtan and aarti, along with strategic games like Mafia and Spotlight, promoting social interaction and problem-solving.



On the final day, students experienced indoor rock climbing, pushing their limits once more. The camp concluded with a reflective circle where they shared insights and personal growth experiences. This time of reflection underscored the valuable lessons and connections formed throughout the trip.



Overall, Houghton's Bush Camp proved to be a successful venture, equipping our students with essential skills in teamwork, resilience, and spiritual enrichment. The memories created during this adventure will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact.



# Meet the Kalpa-Vrkshas

## Student Club



We are excited to share the highlights from our recent Dress Up Day! The theme invited students to showcase their creativity and passion by dressing up as their favorite characters from Lord Krishna's pastimes. It was heartwarming to see the enthusiasm and effort put into the outfits, with students embracing this theme wholeheartedly.

A special thank you to the Kalpa Vrkshas, our new student club supervised by Kirti Mataji, for organizing the best-dressed competition! Congratulations to our winners, who received a certificate and a chocolate bar during the assembly. This initiative not only fostered creativity but also encouraged camaraderie among students, making it a wonderful event.

The Kalpa Vrksha Club is dedicated to creating joyful events and enhancing student bonding throughout the academic year. Our senior students will be organizing and hosting a variety of student-driven activities within our school, all aimed at fostering connections outside of the traditional classroom setting.

## Exciting update from the Art Department

We are pleased to announce that our senior school has recently acquired a pottery wheel for our elder students. This resource provides a valuable opportunity for them to engage in the art of pottery.

Under the guidance of Ian Prabhu, our outdoor classroom, art, and technology teacher, students will have the chance to learn and develop their skills in pottery. Ian's expertise will support students as they explore this creative medium.

Our senior students have already started their journey with the pottery wheel, completing their first lesson on making simple bowls. The skills and techniques they practiced during this session were impressive.

We look forward to seeing how this new resource enhances our students' artistic experiences and helps them develop their craftsmanship in the future.



## Term 2, 2025 Events

Term Dates: Mon 28th April-Fri 27th June

HKS Closed: King's Birthday- 2nd June

Matariki Long Weekend- 20th June

### Exam dates:

NCEA Literacy and Numeracy Co-requisite exams for  
Yrs 10-11. (First opportunity)

19th-30th May

## Vaisnava Festivals

There are Vaisnava festivals happening in the weekend which you are welcome to attend with your family. You can find info on the Hare Krishna Auckland facebook page.

## DONATIONS

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your kind donations towards the school prasadam program and other endeavours. Every donation is so appreciated!

If anyone would like to donate to our school, you can send funds to Hare Krishna School  
12-3085-0342272-00 and put your child's name as reference.  
Thank you for your kind service!

## HARE KRISHNA SCHOOL Uniform

You are now able to buy both Hare Krishna school junior and the new senior school uniform from Prestidges (formerly Elizabeth Michael Uniforms) at 65 New North Rd, Eden Terrace or order online 24/7!

To shop online 24/7. Simply visit

[www.prestidges.co.nz](http://www.prestidges.co.nz) and register for Hare Krishna School by entering the school code **HK195**. We can courier to you or you can select pick up from the Prestidges, 65 New North Rd. We are open:

**Mon - Thurs 9.00am - 5.00pm**

**Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm**

**Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm**

### UNIFORM DETAILS

Junior Uniform - years 1-8 - boys and girls

Senior Uniform - years 9-13 - boys and girls

Plus there are some all of school items listed under Accessories

A new Sports uniform has been introduced and this can be worn by both junior and senior students. Categorised under SPORTS you will find:

General Sports uniform - Navy PE top and matching navy PE shorts

House Tees - these are available in all house colours: red, green, blue and white

**PRESTIDGES**  
SCHOOLWEAR  
FORMERLY ELIZABETH MICHAEL UNIFORMS

65 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1021  
P: 09 358 1680 • [uniforms@prestidges.co.nz](mailto:uniforms@prestidges.co.nz) • [www.prestidges.co.nz](http://www.prestidges.co.nz)

## Food Safety Grade

We are pleased to announce that our kitchen has again been awarded a **A-Grade** certification for its standards! This achievement reflects our commitment to providing high-quality meals for our students. Should you wish to partake in lunch prasadam, please contact the school office.

