

STORIES FROM SOUTHWELL PARENTS ON FINDING THE SECONDARY SCHOOL THAT BEST SUITED THEIR SON

“Why
we chose
St Paul’s
for our
son.”



St Paul's
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



As a former Southwell School student, your son will find the transition from Southwell to St Paul's a relatively smooth one.

Southwell School and St Paul's Collegiate School have more in common than their faith.

Both have a similar roll and pride themselves on the personalised educational opportunities available to their students.

The teaching staff at St Paul's are educators who are passionate about their subject area and have the ability to get the best from their students. This is evident in the school's academic results.

ST PAUL'S 2018 RESULTS

Qualification	St Paul's	Decile 9-10
University Entrance	82%	63%
NCEA Level 1	94%	76%
NCEA Level 2	97%	78%
NCEA Level 3	93%	74%

While our strongest focus is ensuring our students are achieving the desired results in their academic studies, so too is our focus on developing good character in every young man. Through our character education and emotional intelligence programmes, St Paul's students are taught to recognise their own emotions and the emotions of others. Along with the

guidance from a dedicated pastoral care team, these programmes are preparing St Paul's students to be resilient, agile and contributing members of society.

In my view, there is no better programme in New Zealand than Tihoi Venture School, an outdoor programme, located in the bush near Taupo, that meets the specific needs of 14-year-old hormone-charged teenagers, to start their transition to adulthood.

Stripped of electronic devices, the boys learn from the back-to-basics environment they live in. The focus of this 18-week programme at Tihoi is on outdoor experiences such as kayaking, sailing, rock climbing, mountain craft, sea kayaking, caving, bush survival and tramping, although the students continue to participate in an academic programme in all mainstream subjects.

The Year 10 students live in houses accommodating eight age-mates where they learn to live and work together, taking responsibility for their own house-keeping, preparing their own meals on wood-burning stoves and meeting a range of personal and social challenges.

I believe this programme is the greatest gift any parent could give their son.

Participation in both a summer and winter sport is also an expectation at St Paul's and those young men who show talent in their chosen sport are exposed to high performance coaching and training very early on. At many high schools, this level of coaching is reserved only for their senior A teams.

A school musical or production is performed every year and there are many opportunities for the junior school to participate either as a member of the cast, backstage, technical support or as a musician. There are many other cultural activities on offer including music, Kapa Haka, art, debating, music showcases, 48-hour film challenges and much more.

But it's not really about what I have to say ... take a read of this booklet to understand why past Southwell parents chose St Paul's as the preferred high school for their children.

GRANT LANDER
Headmaster

“Academically, Hugo is in the a-band class. When he was in the junior school at St Paul’s, he was also in an extension class with eight others to expand his mind and challenge his thinking. Most schools have programmes for a-band students, but with larger class sizes. What really impressed me about St Paul’s was the strength of the academic programme across the board - for students of all abilities. The smaller class sizes facilitate this improvement through greater teacher contact.

A school is only as strong as its weakest link. The quality of the teachers is very high and they work extremely hard to bring the lower band boys up to the level of the others and this success is reflected in the school’s academic results. The vertical pastoral care system is second to none.

This translates to the sports programme at the school too, which was also a reason for me choosing this school. I listened to the marketing pitches of other school’s sports successes; I saw this as short term thinking. I wanted to find a school that had programmes in place to give all kids, not

just the talented kids, an opportunity to participate and excel in sport.

I have seen first-hand, as a coach, the difference in the way other schools with large rolls treat high achieving athletes compared to other levels. Those of different sizes and abilities, tend to be able to participate without the same coaching and training opportunities. I didn’t want this for my child. I wanted him to be treated equally despite his ability on the sports field.

Through the coaching programmes and facilities, Hugo has succeeded in being selected into the top colts cricket team and the under 55kg rugby team at St Pauls. By comparison he would not have received the same opportunities elsewhere, due to large volumes of players. The quality of training enabled his teams to be highly competitive and successful in the local competitions.

The school cares about every student, and nurtures them to produce champions in all aspects of school life. We couldn’t be happier with our decision to send Hugo to St Paul’s.”

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STEPHEN SHALE

Father of Hugo (Year 12) | Southwell graduate 2015



“They aren’t just a number... they really know our sons.”



“Coming from Southwell we heard how seamless the transition to St Paul’s was going to be and I can say hand-on-heart this is true. It has been a very pleasant experience to go through and it took away any angst we were feeling as parents.

There are lots of similarities between the two schools around expectations, discipline, values, structures of the day and the homework diary.

My wife and I were looking for an environment where our sons weren’t going to get lost. We wanted them to attend a school where they would succeed academically. For us it was going to be through personalised teaching within smaller class sizes so that they would receive the support they need. St Paul’s does exactly that.

The support our sons get in the classroom is phenomenal. They aren’t just a number; the teachers really know them.

PAUL FORWARD

Father of Matthew (Year 12) | Southwell graduate 2015 and Joshua (Year 9) | Southwell graduate 2018

Every fortnight we receive an email progress report which tells us how they’re performing in the classroom. Their teachers know their good points, they know areas they need to work on and they know how to get the best out of them.

All of the assurances we were given at the start about Matthew and Joshua receiving customised educations and one-on-one time with their teachers has been delivered.

The house system is a real gem too. Each house has students from Year 9 through to Year 13 so they mix with students of all ages and of different strengths and passions. The kids form a unity. There is of course competition but it is good, friendly competition with the other houses.

We couldn’t be more pleased with our decision to send our sons to St Paul’s. Every day they come home and say things like, “I’ve had a good day” or “I’ve had a great day” and as a parent you can’t really ask for much more than that.”

“St Paul’s has been the next step for both Liam and Ryan in their education after attending Southwell School for their intermediate years, so boarding wasn’t new to them. Boarding has made them very resilient dealing with other boys from all walks of life.

I couldn’t be more proud of the young men they have become. Liam became very focused on his education half way through Year 9, prior to that he was a lot like most teenage boys - happy to do the bare minimum to achieve a pass. Mixing with other teenage boys wanting to do their very best encouraged him to aim higher. He wanted to gain merit and excellence credits in his NCEA and being in smaller classes helped him achieve this.

For a boy that hated English, he said to me in Year 11, ‘I love English and I love going to my English classes’. He is

now studying Year 13 English because of his Year 11 teacher who encouraged him. He has gained his Level 1 and Level 2 NCEA with a merit endorsement and currently studying Level 3 NCEA.

St Paul’s Tihoi Venture School, pushed both my boys outside their comfort zone to complete the challenges put in front of them. Ryan finished Tihoi in November 2016 after spending the second intake down there.

Dealing with a very long and wet winter has given him a new-found determination and life-long skills to achieve his goals.

Both boys could run 2km but left Tihoi being able to run a half marathon and both completed their Duke of Edinburgh. It was a real confidence booster for them knowing they could achieve anything once they put their mind to it.”

The staff at Tihoi pushed him out of his comfort zone...



KATHIE TYNDALL

Mother of Liam | St Paul’s graduate 2017 | Southwell graduate 2012 and Ryan (Year 13) | Southwell graduate 2014



“We want our sons to grow into good men...”



“Our decision to choose St Paul’s came down to three things.

The first being a sense of tradition and students being taught values and basic etiquette. We didn’t want to undo everything we had achieved at Southwell; we want our sons to grow into good men and we needed a school that would support us in this effort.

Small class sizes and innovation in the classroom was also a deciding factor for us – the world is ever evolving and we wanted our sons to learn in a school

that would equip them with the hard and soft skills needed for future employment.

The Agribusiness and Emotional Intelligence programmes both impressed me for this reason: Agribusiness because the school is showing realistic and exciting career pathways which guarantee future employment and the Emotional Intelligence programme because it teaches students how to read their own emotions, read others emotions and to communicate and relate better because of this.

The final reason for choosing St Paul’s was the quality of the teaching staff. As the mother of boys, I really appreciate the effort the teachers put into their classes and the fortnightly feedback we get, by email, on the boys’ attitude and effort in each of their subjects.

Sending our three sons to St Paul’s is absolutely an investment but it has been the right decision for us and I think you will find it will be for you too.”

MEGAN SMITH

Mother of Harry | St Paul’s graduate 2018 | Southwell graduate 2013, George (Year 12) | Southwell graduate 2015 and William (Year 9) | Southwell graduate 2018

“We wanted a school for Ollie that reflected the values and attitudes we uphold at home

and that were fostered at Southwell; to be compassionate, honest, have integrity and aspire for excellence. We also wanted a school that would grow our fine young boy into a fine young man. For us, St Paul’s ticked all these boxes and the Tihoi experience was ‘the icing on the cake’.

The transition from Southwell to St Paul’s was seamless for both Ollie and ourselves and I believe this comes down to the similarity in culture and values that exist at Southwell. Coming from Southwell, the house system was familiar to Ollie. Having Southwell old boys as senior students in his house

made it easy for him to feel comfortable and part of the St Paul’s family from the beginning.

Ollie was engaged with his learning at St Paul’s from the outset, coming home saying his teachers were fantastic. Having your child engaged and happy with an inspiring teacher at the front of the classroom is exactly what we wish for as parents.

Having an education being underpinned by the Christian faith was another important consideration for us. We were inspired on a personal level by the Reverend (affectionately known as ‘the Rev’). We thought the Rev was someone Ollie could connect with and learn from as part of his spiritual growth. The importance of service to others and learning about

empathy, often forms the basis of stories Ollie has heard from the Rev. These stories have made an impression on him and he shares these with us at home around the dinner table.

The advice I would give those choosing a high school is to do what’s right for your child. Visit a number of high schools as a comparison but visit St Paul’s first and set this school as your benchmark.

We look at Ollie’s St Paul’s education as an investment in his future. An excellent education is a gift we can give our children to set them up for what’s ahead. We have not been disappointed with our decision for Ollie to come to St Paul’s as we feel he is receiving an education that is both relevant and meaningful.”

“We see St Paul’s as investing in the future.”



KAREN O’MEEGHAN

Mother of Oliver (Year 12) | Southwell Graduate 2015

What Southwell graduates say about St Paul's...



JACK OLIVER ▼

*Southwell graduate 2011
St Paul's graduate 2016*

I don't think I could have made a better decision than choosing St Paul's. My grades improved – I moved from the b-band class to the a-band class – and I was selected as a prefect and head of Williams House. The support of my housemaster and my peers helped me achieve this. At St Paul's, everyone is encouraging you to reach your goal. I now know I can achieve anything I set my mind to.



KANE HEMI ▲

*Southwell graduate 2011
St Paul's graduate 2016*

Tihoi was the hardest thing I have ever done but I would do it all again at the drop of a hat. They really mean it when they say you go to Tihoi a boy and come back a man. It tested me, pushed me and at times was downright annoying but this is what Tihoi is all about; learning to grow as a person and appreciating others differences.

You may think abseiling down a towering rock face or kayaking white water would be the biggest challenge but living in a house with eight other boys was the hardest thing by far. Having to sympathise, tolerate, compromise and operate as a team was no easy task. At the end of the 18 weeks the boys in my house were no longer my friends, they became my brothers.

MORE INFORMATION

stpauls.school.nz

Enrolments – stpauls.school.nz/enrol

Scholarships – stpauls.school.nz/scholarships

Fees – stpauls.school.nz/fees

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St Paul's
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

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