



## 2025 New Zealand Boarding Schools' Association (NZBSA) Award for Outstanding Service to Boarding

**Award recipient: Director of Boarding, Matt Parr**



Since his appointment as Director of Boarding at St Andrew's College in 2019, Matt Parr has exemplified exceptional leadership and dedication to the boarding community. Building on his previous experience, since 2011 as a House Master and subsequently as Assistant Manager at Christchurch Boys' High School in Adam House, Matt has transformed the culture and operations of boarding at St Andrew's.

Under his guidance, the College has introduced a suite of impactful initiatives, including a revised and popular Year 9 orientation programme, robust systems for monitoring student leave, well-being and academic progress, extensive staff training, and a dynamic student leadership framework. His commitment to fostering a strong sense of community is evident in the introduction of parent-led community dinners, and other inclusive events that have strengthened connections between students, families, and staff.

Matt has also championed the development of Te Taki Tino Mā, a visionary framework that encapsulates the boarding philosophy of 'To lead the rest and be your best.' This student-designed initiative promotes personal growth, community values, and a shared identity, symbolised through a unique badge worn with pride by all boarders.

At the recent Education Review Office (ERO) visit the review team found that the students they interviewed overwhelmingly described their boarding experience at St Andrew's College as being fun. They valued the connections between houses and the opportunities living onsite gave them, to enjoy and make the most of the co-curricular activities.

Matt's visionary leadership has not only enhanced the day-to-day experience of boarders, but has also contributed to a thriving, co-educational boarding culture – reflected in full boarding houses and a growing waitlist of applicants. His work stands as a benchmark for excellence in boarding education.

In recognition of Matt's outstanding service, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student development, we are very proud that Matt is being recognised for Outstanding Service to Boarding by colleagues in boarding at the National Hui.