NZ Association for Christian Schools

# NZACS The Whiteboard

## FROM THE CHAIR

#### Kia ora NZACS Whānau

And just like that we are in Term Four. As we look into finishing the year well, I pray that we all grow an even deeper appreciation for the calling that God has give us into the ministry that is Christian Education.

I have been contemplating what sets Christian schools apart from the school down the road when it comes to values education. I am sure that many of us realise that many schools teach and focus on values education. Teaching students to be caring, show empathy, love, and whanaungatanga is not exclusive to Christian Education. These values are held in high esteem in most schools in Aotearoa.

What sets Christian Schools apart from the crowd when it comes to teaching values, is the 'soil' that the values are planted in. In a secular curriculum, there is a strong emphasis on self: self-reliance, self-affirmation, self-gratification, selfish ambition and more. Secular philosophy highlights this with a 'he who dies with most toys wins' or me, myself and I' end goals to life.

The concept of 'otherness' in secularism is often considered as something to proceed with caution about. Others, or your neighbour, can be viewed as competition, inconvenience, randomness and meaninglessness. This is founded in worldviews that are ground in no sense of intentional design or greater purpose, such as a belief that our existence results from a big bang and/or us all simply evolving from primates.

## Term 4, 2024

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- NZACS & other Resources
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#### **SAVE THE DATE**

2025 Teachers' Conference 26-28 June | Elim Christian College



#### FROM THE CHAIR continued...

In a world that assumes that 'my neighbour' has no value, or is near me due to a random evolutionary process how do you plant seeds of empathy?

It is the 'soil' or underlying worldview that Christian Schools explore and plant values that makes all the difference. If a young person sees their neighbour as someone who is created in the image of God and has a heavenly purpose on this earth, then and only then does empathy make sense.

It is easy to schedule time to 'teach' values. At Christian schools, this is often done during devotions or Bible time, as there is such a close correlation between values and how God instructs us to live. However, my wondering is, how much time do we really spend focussing on the 'soil' that values are planted in? The more a young person understands that we are all created in the image of God and that we all have value because of who 'He' is and what He has done for each of us, the richer the soil is for values to be shown.



As we head into term four, I pray that we will be reminded of our value and that as we grow in appreciation of this, it will overflow and be intentionally promoted to our students – not through just devotions and assembly messages, but in all the words that we speak and allow to be spoken into our young people's lives.

Blessings,

Shaun Brooker Chairperson, NZ Association for Christian Schools Principal, Hamilton Christian School

## **NZACS NEWS**

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

We would like to welcome *Hazel Warnes* from Bethlehem College Chapman to the NZACS Exec. Hazel joins: *Colette Budler* – KingsWay School, *Shaun Brooker* – Hamilton Christian School, *Craig Utting* – Middleton Grange School and *Gavin Clark* – Hastings Christian School.

A warm WELCOME to **Sarndra Rauzi** as the **Secretary to the Executive**. It is great to have Sarndra back and we look forward to all that she brings to the Association. Sarndra works out of Cornerstone Christian School and can be contacted as follows:



Sarndra Rauzi – Secretary to the Executive
NZ Association for Christian Schools
C/- Cornerstone Christian Education Trust
119 Mihaere Drive, Kelvin Grove, Palmerston North 4414
Ph: (06) 356 7326 ext 6103 | Mob: 027 604 0064 | secretary@nzacs.nz



Check out our <u>NZACS FACEBOOK PAGE</u> to keep connected to our community, for conversation & discussion points, ideas & news. Don't forget to Like, Follow & Share

#### SHOWCASING the Exec

Each edition of The Whiteboard has a brief bio on an Executive member, to help you get to know those serving the Association.

#### Craig Utting | Associate Principal | Middleton Grange School

I started my teaching career in 1994 and in 2002 began my time in Christian Education when I moved to work as the Deputy Principal at a Christian school of approx. 250 students in the north of Auckland (KingsWay School). My daughter started as a new entrant on that same day in 2002 which was incredibly special.

It is amazing to see how God has blessed that community, and the school now



caters for over 1700 students! In 2018 we moved to Christchurch where I work as the Associate Principal at Middleton Grange School. Middleton is New Zealand's oldest Christian school – established in 1964. This week we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary which is a significant milestone in the life of the school.



For over 22 years, I've had the joy and privilege of having all four of my children educated in the two schools I have worked in. At the end of 2025 (23 years after it all began) my youngest finishes her schooling so will be an end of an era for us as a family. It has been a real joy and privilege to have my own children in the

same school I have worked in. I have loved to watch them learn and grow from close range (possibly too close for them at times). The journey for me has

deepened my passion for Christian education and teaching with a Christ-centred focus. Throughout this time, I'm being constantly reminded that Christian schooling not only shapes academic minds but more importantly cultivates hearts that are grounded in faith, service, and character development.

One of the greatest blessings for me to date has been encouraging and developing the importance of fostering a biblical worldview that helps students engage thoughtfully and compassionately with the world around them. The rapid pace of societal change has introduced unique challenges - whether in cultural shift, technology, or values - requiring us as educators and families to be grounded in truth and in love. My heart for Christian education grows stronger each year, knowing that teaching Christianly equips students to shine as lights in a world that desperately needs hope.



## **FUTUE PLANNING – How can the Association best support you?**

The executive is committed to ensuring that the Association continues to serve all its members well in the next 20-30 years. To that end, we are wanting feedback and suggestions from member schools, as to what the priorities, structure and function of the Association should be moving forward.

Please take the time to read through the <u>Future Discussion Document</u> as members of the executive will reach out to regions in terms three and four, to gather more input and participate in broader discussion, before a collation of all the key ideas are presented for voting.

It is our intention to bring these to the vote at the 2025 AGM.



Hononga Aotearoa mō ngā Kura Karaitiana



## TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP: A Model for Growth and Healing

**Bethlehem Tertiary Institute** 

The NZACS Executive invites association members to contribute articles and reflections to **The Whiteboard** publication. The purpose of such articles is to promote thought and information for other association members. The thoughts and position of the contributions reflect the beliefs of the author and not necessarily the beliefs of the executive.

Bethlehem Tertiary Institute (BTI) is on the verge of launching two new postgraduate programmes in 2025 – Master and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice (Trauma-Responsive Therapy) and Master and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice (Trauma-Informed Leadership and Service). The feedback from the NZQA review panel has been overwhelmingly positive, marking a significant moment for BTI and the wider Christian education community. These new programmes will sit alongside the Master and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice (Leadership).

#### A Milestone in BTI's Journey

The NZQA panel provided high praise for BTI's submission, describing it as one of the best they had reviewed. The panel acknowledged BTI's strong bicultural journey and affirmed that the Institute's Christian identity is authentically woven into all aspects of its work. This commendation is not just about regulatory approval; it reflects the spiritual and academic integrity of BTI as it seeks to equip professionals to serve with compassion and effectiveness in trauma-informed contexts.

The panel's feedback highlighted that trauma-informed education is urgently needed today within all community contexts, including faith-based institutions. They expressed confidence that BTI is well-suited to deliver these programmes, given the depth of its research, commitment to biculturalism, and its values-driven approach.

#### The Importance of Trauma-Informed Education

Trauma is an ever-present reality in today's society, affecting students, families and communities in profound ways. For Christian schools, the responsibility to address trauma goes beyond academic learning, it is also very much a part of someone's life and family experience. Whether through family and whānau experiences of trauma, mental health struggles, adverse community occurrences or global crises, students often go through ordeals that have a significant impact on their ability to learn and thrive.

BTI's new programmes in Trauma-Responsive Therapy and Trauma-Informed Leadership are designed to equip educators and leaders with the knowledge and tools to respond effectively to these challenges. These programmes are a natural extension of BTI's current offerings, including the trauma microcredentials and the Postgraduate Certificate in Responding to Trauma, which already provide training for professionals across a broad range of professions seeking to specialise in trauma-informed care.

#### Christian Faith as the Foundation

The NZQA panel was especially affirming of BTI's Christian foundation, noting that is faith informs everything the institution does. This encouragement is a powerful reminder for Christian schools and institutions to remain grounded in their values. In a world where institutions may feel pressure to compromise on core beliefs, BTI's steadfast commitment to its faith-based mission, stands as an example to others.

The panel's affirmation – "Do not change who you are" – is a call for Christian institutions to remain firmly Christ-centred, ensuring our faith continues to guide how we educated, lead and serve.

#### **Building Resilience in Christian Schools**

As Christian educators, our mission is not only to teach, but also to foster emotional, spiritual and psychological resilience in our students. A trauma-responsive approach enables us to create environments where students feel safe, valued and understood. These environments are crucial for fostering both academic success and personal growth.

Trauma-informed education aligns perfectly with Christian values of care, compassion and redemption. Just as Christ ministered to those who were hurting, Christian schools always have opportunities to create spaces where healing can happen. By adopting trauma-responsive practices, schools reflect the heart of the gospel in their respective educational settings.



#### A Call to Christian Schools

The anticipated approval of BTI's trauma-responsive programmes is a call to action for Christian schools across New Zealand. Are we preparing our educators and leaders to respond to the trauma students may carry? Are we fostering environments that promote healing and resilience? Most importantly, how are our faith and values informing our responses to students whose learning journeys have been negatively impacted by trauma?

BTI's new postgraduate programmes will offer the academic rigour necessary to address trauma effectively, while also incorporating the spiritual depth required to bring about real healing. These trauma-focused programmes will equip professionals with the tools to create trauma-sensitive environments that reflect the values of refuge, hope, and restoration, and are an addition to our postgraduate leadership programmes.

#### Conclusion: Moving Forward with Faith

As Christian educators, we must hold fast to the belief that every student is made in the image of God and deserves to learn in an environment that fosters healing and growth. BTI's forthcoming programmes will serve as a beacon, guiding educators and leaders in their mission to create trauma-responsive spaces that not only educate, but also heal, inspire and transform lives.

Let us collectively, remain grounded in our Christian values and continue to lead with courage and compassion. By doing so, we can create education environments that reflect God's heart – ultimately bringing glory to Him.

#### **ROBUST DISCUSSION**

Do you (or does someone you know) have an area of passion or expertise that you would like to share, or around which you would like to encourage robust, helpful debate?

We are keen to have members contribute articles or viewpoints.

If you have a topic you would like to see some discussion around, or a viewpoint you would like to share, please contact: <a href="mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz">secretary@nzacs.nz</a>

\$100 per article will be paid for selected articles. Selection is at the NZACS chairperson's discretion.

The recommended article length is 600-700 words.

## **NZACS RESOURCES**

Our **RESOURCES** site is up and running and we would love for you to make use of all that is available. Check it out! <a href="https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/">https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/</a>

[This is a password protected site, so please ensure you sign up to gain access, as this will be verified with your school/organisation.]



THE WHITEBOARD EVENTS MEMBER DIRECTORY CONFERENCE

**RESOURCES** 

#### **CATEGORIES**

- Christian Teacher Development
- Inclusive Education Classroom
- Leadership Development
- Service & Mission
- Bicultural Practice
- Student Wellbeing
- Curriculum
- NZACS Conference Key Note Speakers
- University Courses
- Links to other Organisations



## Resources

Resources for your staff, leaders & teachers

## Media Resources

#### **Promotional Videos**

Available for you to use in the promotion of Christian Education to your community and beyond. There are bite size social media clips, or longer length videos available to choose from.





https://vimeo.com/648419275

#### STUDENT PROMO



https://vimeo.com/651436170



#### **Digital Brochure**

#### WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Designed to encourage parents to think about key precepts underlying Christian Education.

## **NZACS RESOURCES**



#### **NZACS WEBSITE**

sponsored by







ABOUT SCHOOLS & ORGANISATIONS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

**VACANCIES** 

A reminder to check the **VACANCIES PAGE** on our website. It is that time of year, where a number of positions need to be filled within our network. Please prayerfully pass these on.

## **Other Resources**



#### **INFOODLE APP**

Have you seen the Infoodle APP?

This will give you quick access to the contacts of other Christian Schools, our latest newsletter, and other items – all from the comfort of your phone/device.

We can also send you push notifications of important events such as conferences, meetings, etc.

IT IS FREE! Download on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

Connect to [nzacs] New Zealand Association for Christian Schools









## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Wanting to grow in your love for God, God's word, God's people, and God's mission? We would love to have you journey with us.

## Interns at Christian Schools

Here's why partnering with Pathways Bible College is a win-win for everyone.

AN OPPORTUNITY TOO GOOD TO MISS ...

FOR YOUR SCHOOL

**SCHOLARSHIPS** AVAILABLE

- ✓ Investment in student growth
- ✓ Increased people resources
- Encourages teaching as a career
- Systems put in place to ensure student wellbeing
- a missional purpose in a school context Indepth biblical & theological study

Alignment of unique traits & passion with

- ✓ Practical school operations experience
- Personal mentoring & pastoral care
- NZQA accreditation for future study

#### A HEALTHY BALANCE

- 16 hours pwk in school context
- 16 hours pwk study
- 6 one-week long block courses at a beachside camp setting (Sun-Fri)
- Students have schoolbased mentors and Pathways College support staff Students are police
- checked
- Staff participate in student's spiritual & personal growth
- Opportunity for school staff to be supported as they grow in their expertise with supervision and/or mentoring.

#### POSSIBLE CONTEXTS FOR SERVICE

- Sports Days
- Sports Coaching
- Cultural events
- Missions events
- Camps
- Administration
- School assemblies
- School productions
- Reading support **ESOL** support
- General teacher

- assistance
- Running small group activities
- School devotionals
- Supporting teachers on playground duty
- Setting up equipment
- Providing extra tuition
- Library support
- Helping students with diverse needs.

BENEF







HOW DO WE APPROACH THE ACT OF TEACHING IN A WAY THAT'S REFLECTIVE OF THE GOSPEL?

Equip yourself to think theologically about current pressing issues in New Zealand education.

# **SIGN UP** OR FIND OUT MORE

aperry@laidlaw.ac.nz



**www.laidlaw.ac.nz** 0800 999 777





#### **COURSE DETAILS 2025**

Online evening classes Wednesdays, 26 Feb – 18 June

Block course on campus 14-16 April 2025 | 9:30am-5pm Henderson & Christchurch Campuses

## **NZACS SPONSORS**

We are very thankful for the attendance and support of our sponsors at Conference.

Please remember to give them an opportunity to quote!

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Growth Culture exists to provide excellent professional learning and development to educational facilities wanting to up-skill their staff in leadership development. For more on their programmes, check out their website.







## **NZACS SPONSORS Continued**

## **BRONZE SPONSOR**



www.educatedfurniture.co.nz

Educated Furniture has over 26 years' extensive furniture experience, providing the perfect balance of quality and value, along with innovative solutions for today's schools.

We cover all areas of the school; classroom, ILE, staffrooms, libraries and other specialist areas.

If you are aware of any businesses who would be interested in sponsoring NZACS, please contact the Executive via secretary@nzacs.nz

## **Opportunities**

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NZACS: Teachers' Conference – Jun 26-28, 2025 | Auckland Registration Link and more details to come...

Check out conferences available with our Partner Organisations

CONVERGE Global Christian School Leadership Summit Feb 24-26, 2025 Converge link

Orlando

ACSI: Association of Christian Schools International Apr 27-30, 2025 IELC link

International Educational Leaders Conference Spain

CSA: Christian Schools Australia Aug 20-22, 2025 CSA link

National Leaders' Summit Melbourne

CEN: Christian Education National (Aus) TBC CEN link

Christian Schools Conference

PRAYER: THE AIM IS NOT TO GET GOD IN ON WHAT I THINK HE SHOULD BE DOING.

RATHER, THE AIM OF RAYER IS TO GET US IN ON WHAT GOD IS DOING, BECOME AWARE OF IT, JOIN IT, AND ENJOY THE FRUIT OF PARTICIPATION.

[Tyler Staton]



# Term 4, 2024 PRAYER DIARY

Always be full of joy. Never stop praying.

Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

## Week starting Monday 14th October

#### FAITH CITY SCHOOL (Whanganui, Y1-8, 143 students)

#### Praise Point:

 We have just finished our School Production – The Prodigal – a modern take on the story of the prodigal son in Matthew 15. It was an amazing highlight of the year and powerful outreach. Eight state schools attended and about 1500 people in total – all seeing and hearing the Father's heart and redemptive story.

#### **Prayer Request:**

- For Sue Little, our long standing Deputy Principal, as she retires. Pray for her as she transitions to a
  quieter lifestyle.
- That Faith City finds the God ordained person to fill the Deputy Principal's position.





#### Week starting Monday 21st October

#### **MATAMATA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-8, 120 students)**



#### **Praise Points:**

- For the first time in our history, the school is about to be full.
- God's provision of finances for the school.
- The amazing team of staff, Board members and volunteers, God has provided the school with.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- We have an application in with the Ministry to increase our school roll over two years. Please pray this will be accepted and that God will continue to send the families He wants to be here.
- We also have an application in, to extend to Years 9 and 10, starting in 2027. Please pray this will be
  accepted and that God will grant us His wisdom in preparing for this, having everything in place and
  again, having Him bring those He wants to be here.
- That God will provide the classrooms that we need as we look to extend our spaces.

#### Week starting Monday 28th October

#### **ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE HENDERSON (Y1-8)**

#### **Praise Points:**

- A committed and talented staff who have invested heavily in our establishment.
- The opportunity to form and partner with whānau in a new community.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Wisdom and discernment in navigating curriculum changes.
- A smooth and successful run to the end of the year; particularly with preparations for 2025.



#### Week starting Monday 4th November

MIRAMAR CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-8, 32 students) Preparing to become Wellington Hills Christian College

#### **Praise Points:**

- For the long-held dream of having a Christian College in Wellington City is coming to pass.
- For the opportunity for greater numbers of ākonga to receive Christian education in Wellington.
- For the work and practical help of others who have gone before us and continue to go before us, given by hundreds of people up and down the motu.



#### **Prayer Requests:**

- For everything to finish well, in a God-honouring way, as we transition from Miramar Christian School to Wellington Hills Christian College.
- For staff, students and whānau to receive an extra measure of physical, emotional and spiritual strength, wisdom and patience as they prepare for the move.
- For enrolments to be full by the end of this year.
- For everything on the site, e.g., buildings, resourcing, staffing appointments, etc., to be ready in a timely fashion for opening at the

beginning of 2025.



#### Week starting Monday 11th November

#### HILLVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Christchurch, Y1-10, 529 students)

This year seems to have flown by very quickly. We give thanks to God for all the pupils learning progress, achievements, and growth in their character. We were also thrilled to know several of our pupils decided to be water baptised.



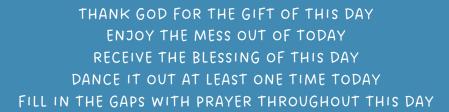




- Our Heavenly Father continues to provide for our school in so many ways. This year He moved a family to sponsor 80% of the costs of our new Junior Campus playgrounds.
- The pupils being moved to support several God-centred initiatives to either raise money or resources for a wonderful cause.
- For our wonderful Christ-centred teaching staff who work tirelessly to impassion our pupils to learn well.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- For wisdom and discernment as we seek God's leading for the next few years.
- The staff will keep healthy as we have had a significant number of staff away due to illnesses throughout the year.
- We will continue to fulfil our mission and vision with God's strength and grace.



[Lysa Terkeurst]

### Week starting Monday 18th November

#### **HASTINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-13, 327 students)**

#### **Praise Points:**

- A successful secondary performing arts evening, a primary school Festival of the Ages celebration and an outstanding secondary school ball.
- A new science teacher that began in term three and high calibre appointments for 2025.
- Positive feedback of the impact that a new peer mentoring programme in the intermediate and secondary school.
- Rich conversation with the Y12 Christina worldview students.

#### **Praver Points:**

- Wisdom for both boards as we manage role growth.
- Induction of new staff.
- Wisdom for ongoing work of our curriculum director as new curriculum support documents are produced.
- Strengthened relationships following a pastors breakfast with the contributing churches to HCS.

#### Week starting Monday 25th November

#### RICHMOND VIEW SCHOOL (Blenheim, Y1-13, 112 students)



#### **Praise Points:**

 The opening of our new staffroom. We love our staff and the new spot to gather is a real blessing.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

 For Dave Pauling (Principal) as he moves on after 14 years at RVS. Very proud to be able to complete the staffroom project before finishing up.

#### Week starting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

#### **HAMILTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-13, 905 students)**

As we have navigated the murky and stormy waters of the past few years, we have seen the blessing of God so strongly at Hamilton Christian School. We have some incredible new buildings that have enabled us to provide access to Christian Education for many families within Kirikiriroa. As our school has expanded, we have also been blessed with the incredible staff that God has brought to our school and the expanded opportunities that our students have had.



We are grateful for the increased presence of our school sport throughout Waikato and even at a national level. We are grateful for the release of our first worship album last year and the new songs we released as a school this year, leading into our 2024 Worship Album. We are grateful for the staff and students who made it possible for us to perform an adapted version of 'You are Special' production with all our primary school students.

#### **Praise Points:**

- Our incredible staff and leadership.
- Our new buildings, refurbished classroom and playgrounds.
- The community that God is building here.
- Strong relationships with other Christian Schools.
- Inaugural sports exchange with KingsWay and Elim.
- The senior boys' basketball team placed eighth in the Single-A nationals.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- That God will continue to give leadership wisdom as we continue to build our team.
- That our Proprietor will be able to purchase the two acres of land next to our school.
- That we can have wisdom with how to build a community with the varying needs a growing community has.
- That we will know when to best build our next classroom block.
- That our new outdoor cover and turf building projects go without a hitch.
- As with everyone, that we can navigate the new curriculum and NCEA changes well.

#### Week starting Monday 9th December



#### **SCHOOLS, STAFF, STUDENTS & FAMILIES**

#### **Praise Points:**

- For a year where we were able to impact lives in our school communities, with the gospel.
- For God's protection and provision throughout 2025.

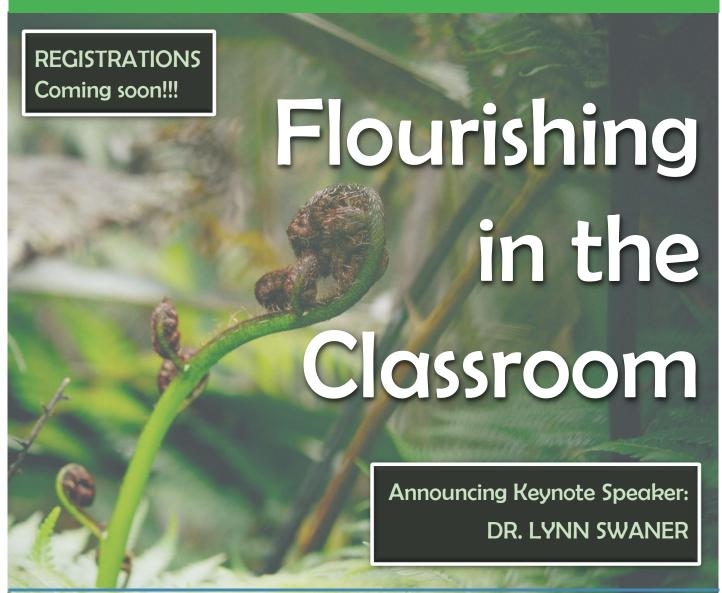


#### **Prayer Points:**

- For a safe and refreshing summer break.
- For continued provision of staff in 2025, who are called to Christian education.

## NZAC\$ 2025 TEACHER\$' CONFERENCE

Thu 26 - \$at 28 June 2025 Elim Christian College, Auckland



Email: