

Dear parents,

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Martin O'Grady as the new Principal of Rathkeale College, commencing at the beginning of Term 2, 2018.



Martin is currently the Principal at Feilding High School. Prior to Feilding he was the Principal at Karamu High School in Hastings for eight years. He has taught at Hastings Boys' High School (eight years) and Lindisfarne College (twelve years), where he progressed to Head of Senior Boarding and Assistant Principal.

Martin grew up on the family farm at Kotemaori in Northern Hawke's Bay and attended high school in Wairoa. He initially completed a Bachelor of Agriculture at Massey University, followed by his Post-Grad Diploma of Teaching at Palmerston North Teachers College. He has since completed a Post-Grad Diploma in Educational Administration and Leadership and in 2014 he was the recipient of the NEiTA National Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.

Martin is currently a member of the Ministry of Education's Schools Property Reference Group and is a Justice of the Peace (JP).

Martin is married to Sara, a kindergarten teacher and they have two children – Georgia who is an intermediate teacher in Wellington and Sam who has just finished his third year of Law at Victoria University in Wellington.

The Appointment Panel was impressed by Martin's personal and interpersonal skills. He has a genuine passion for developing students into young adults who will contribute positively to society and our community in the future. He will be a strong leader and role model for staff and students. His recent experience in co-educational schools will ensure that we can continue to enhance our Senior College offering. He is looking forward to creating a personal connection with all staff and students at Rathkeale College next year.

The number and calibre of the applicants for the position is testament to the hard work of Willy Kersten, the Rathkeale staff and students over recent years. It was clear from the recruitment process that our school is held in high regard.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Martin and Sara to Rathkeale in April next year.

George Murdoch
Chairman
Rathkeale Board of Trustees