



*Villa Maria College*  
T E W H A R E O M E R I  
L E A R N T O P R I Z E W H A T I S O F V A L U E

## TRUSTEE PROFILE: PATRICK O'NEILL



I am a member of the Board of Trustees at Villa Maria College because I believe my skills, experience and personal interest in the school will contribute to its continued good governance. I have previous experience sitting on two primary school boards and understand the importance of quality governance for the educational outcomes of individual students.

I have an ongoing connection to Villa over many years through my mother and sisters being former students. I also took two classes in my seventh form year while a student at St Thomas'. My daughter is currently in Year 10.

In my professional life, I manage a small research company, Global Research, and employ many current university students and graduates. I am heartened by the quality of graduates that New Zealand's education system produces. I know though that not everyone follows a path to university education and so every student needs to receive an education that best suits their personal attributes and aspirations. I believe the Board of Trustees needs to support the school to cater to the needs of each individual and inspire them to be happy, confident and successful in whatever path they choose.

I acknowledge that the education system our daughters are experiencing and the world they are inheriting is substantially different to the one my generation experienced growing up. I have a belief that while traditional Catholic values are fundamental, for individuals to have a quality education their learning environment also needs to acknowledge a fast-changing world and all the consequences of those changes. Specifically, Christchurch and Villa students have experienced many significant events over the past ten years that have impacted students. Villa management and staff need to be provided with the direction, support and resources necessary to deliver caring, individually-focused education to inspire students to overcome the challenges they face.

Education at Villa is broader than what students learn in the classroom; students should be encouraged to excel to their personal best in every endeavour they choose - arts, sport or personal - development pursuits. I also believe groups and teams should be reasonably resourced and supported to perform and compete to the highest possible standards.

I look forward to serving the parents, students, management and staff of Villa Maria College.