

# WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS  
2017



# WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

Your community school, committed to caring for students in a quality educational environment.

Ko tō koutou kura-ā-iwi, he kura atawhai tangata i roto i te taiao tupu ai te tino tounga o te matauranga.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Whanganui High School community strives to ensure that all students are given the opportunity and support required to reach their potential in all aspects of their education.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Welcome* to the Whanganui High School Prospectus.

Whanganui High School is a leading co-educational secondary school. We have over 1500 students; more than 100 specialist teachers and more than 50 support and administration staff.

The choice of secondary school for your son or daughter needs to be a carefully considered decision. I personally assure you that Whanganui High School is an outstanding school, with nationally significant points of difference across all academic, cultural and sporting areas.

In addition to this, our school values of LIFE (Learning, Integrity, Fellowship, Excellence) underpin the balanced and caring education we offer to our students.

Students at Whanganui High School enjoy all the advantages associated with attending a large secondary school - a diverse range of educational opportunities; access to all our dedicated and well-qualified teachers; a fully inclusive and welcoming learning environment - as well as benefitting from the personalised learning that occurs in all classes and across the entire school.

You are always very welcome to visit our school and meet with me at any time.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martin McAllen'.

*Martin McAllen*

**PRINCIPAL**

*MEd Leadership with First Class Honours,  
PG DipEd Leadership, BA, Dip Tchg*



# WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL VALUES

Whanganui High School has established a set of values, in keeping with the New Zealand Curriculum. These eight values reflect some key understandings about what we believe is important and desirable. We aim to reflect these values in our administration, guidance and teaching programmes.

Staff, students and all other members of our School community are encouraged to model and explore the School values, and aspire to be guided by them in their interactions with others and their attitude towards learning. We believe that this is an important aspect of helping young people develop into fine young adults.

The School values are:

<b>Community</b>	<b>Whakawhanaungatanga, wairua auaha</b> Working together in harmony, while respecting our diversity.
<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Mana Whakahaere</b> Meeting our obligations to ourselves, others and our environment
<b>Respect</b>	<b>Whakaute</b> Respect for self, others, property and human rights.
<b>Inquiry</b>	<b>Patapatai</b> Hunger for learning.
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Kairangi, Hiranga</b> Doing our best, aiming high, expecting and achieving high standards.
<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Ngākau tapatahi, Mana</b> Doing the right thing even when nobody is looking, being honest.
<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Ngakau mahara, manaakitanga</b> Considering others' needs as well as your own.
<b>Fairness</b>	<b>Tika, Pono</b> Justice, equity.

Students are encouraged to consider these values through presentations at their Year Level assemblies and through all aspects of school life—classroom programmes, form class discussions and extra-curricular activities. We aim to help students explore what these values mean and how they can apply them to themselves and their community.



## Positive Behaviour for Learning

Whanganui High School is part of the Ministry of Education's initiative Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) and Restorative Practice

The School's values underpin the PB4L and Restorative Practice programme and the key expectations we have of student behaviour.

Staff, students and all other members of our School community are encouraged to model and explore School values and aspire to be guided by them in their interactions with others and in their approach to learning.

We believe this is an important aspect of helping young people develop into fine young adults.

<b>L</b>	<b>Learning</b>	Be Prepared Participate
<b>I</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	Be responsible Show respect
<b>F</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>	Be cooperative Encourage others
<b>E</b>	<b>Excellence</b>	Do your best Celebrate success

***That we might have LIFE***





# THE SCHOOL IS PROUD OF ITS STRENGTHS

## Academic Excellence

- The School's facilities are exceptional, purpose built to deliver the NZ curriculum.
- Students are taught and extended at a level appropriate to their needs.
- All senior students work towards National Qualifications including the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), and in some subjects international qualifications, including Cambridge.
- Our examination results are the envy of other schools in our region.
- Over 90% of our Year 13 students achieve their Whanganui High School Diploma.



## Promotion of the Arts

- Quality facilities support Art, Design, Drama, Dance, Music and Photography.
- Tuition is available in a range of string, voice, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.
- All students have the opportunity to be involved in school-wide highlights including School Productions, Stage Challenge, the annual Performing Arts Concert, Rockquest, Chamber Music and Sheilah Winn Shakespeare festivals.
- Cultural Groups such as Pasifika and Kapa Haka have the opportunity to represent the School both regionally and nationally.
- The visual arts include Painting, Design and Photography through to Level 3 of the NCEA.
- Drama, Art and Music Groups are involved in various competitions and performance opportunities throughout the year.





## Recreational and Sporting Opportunities

- The School facilities include extensive sports fields, a gymnasium complex with a training gym and numerous other specialist facilities.
- Physical Education forms part of a comprehensive approach to life education and includes practical Physical Education and Health Studies. Students with strengths in this field can advance through to Level 3 NCEA.
- Outdoor Education is a subject offered to senior students.
- Both winter and summer sports are extremely well catered for. The School's level of success both at regional and national level is exceptional.
- Our traditional interschool fixtures provide opportunities for both senior and junior students.



## A Safe and Caring Environment

- Facilities include a comprehensive Guidance Suite offering Counsellors' rooms, Deans' interview rooms and a Nurse's interview room attached to the purpose-built Student Centre.
- The School's guidance structure focuses resources into levels so that the extra staffing Whanganui High School has available is used most effectively in the support of students and their families. Each level has its own senior administrator (Deputy Principal), Deans and Form Teachers. This group works together with the School's Guidance Counsellors, Nurse and Student Centre to ensure students are known as individuals and are supported and advised on an on-going basis.
- The School provides individual course counselling and career education for each student. A well resourced careers centre, with specialist course counsellors and careers advisers, is available.
- The School has highly effective systems in place, which help ensure the School's expectations in terms of behaviour are met.





## Excellence in Performing Arts

- Ten times winners of Regional Stage Challenge competition, including recently in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016. National winners of Stage Challenge in 2004 and 2016, and second Nationally in 2009.
- Acclaimed whole School productions take place every other year, with junior productions and Stage Challenge in alternate years.
- Regular winners and place-getters at regional RockQuest. In top eight New Zealand Bands 2012.
- Performance tour opportunities. In 2008, 2012 and 2015 the WHS Choir performed at the Sydney Opera House as part of a trip to compete in the Australian International Music Festival, winning Silver Medals twice.
- Annual Regional Chamber Music Festival.
- Pasifika Group participate in Pasifika Fusion regionally.
- Kapa Haka group participate in Pae Rangatahi and the Manu Korero competitions.
- Otago University Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival annual performance and National winners for costume design. Regional winners 2015 and 2016 and a WHS student was chosen for the NZ team to travel to the Globe Theatre in England in 2017.
- One Act Play Festival annual performance-Regional winners 2014.
- The Performing Arts Concert has become a feature of the year to showcase the talent of WHS.
- Entries in the 'NZ Made' National Dance comp.







## Excellence in Sport

Adventure Racing  
Archery  
Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Canoeing  
Canoe Polo  
Cricket  
Cross Country  
Cycling  
Darts  
Duke of Edinburgh  
Equestrian  
Fit Club  
Football  
Golf  
Hockey  
Judo  
Kayaking  
Lawn Bowls  
Lifesaving  
Motocross  
Mountain Biking  
Multisport/Triathlons  
Netball  
Pool 8 Ball  
Rowing  
Rugby  
Sailing  
Skiing  
Small-bore Rifle Shooting  
Snowboarding  
Softball  
Squash  
Surfing  
Swimming  
Tennis  
Touch  
Tramping  
Ultimate Frisbee  
Volleyball  
Waka Ama





## Excellence in Co-curricular Activities

Students are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of events and activities during their time at WHS.





# THE NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM

Whanganui High School delivers programmes that are based on the structure of the NZ Curriculum.

This sets the direction for student learning to create:

*Young people who will be confident, connected,  
actively involved, lifelong learners.*

In the **Arts** students explore, refine and communicate ideas as they connect thinking, imagination, senses, and feelings to create works and respond to the works of others.

In **Digital Technologies**, students develop knowledge and skills using a wide range of exciting internet and computing technologies.

In **English**, students study, use and enjoy language and literature communicated orally, visually or in writing.

In **Health and Physical Education** students learn about their own well-being, and that of others and society, in health-related and movement contexts.

In studying **Languages**, students learn to communicate in an another language, develop their capacity to learn further languages, and explore different world views in relation to their own.

In **Mathematics and Statistics**, students explore relationships in quantities, space and data and learn to express these relationships in ways that help them make sense of the world around them.

In **Science**, students explore how both the natural physical world and science itself work so that they can participate as critical, informed and responsible citizens in a society in which science plays a significant role.

In the **Social Sciences**, students explore how societies work and how they themselves can participate and take action as critical, informed and responsible citizens.

In **Technology**, students learn to be innovative developers of products and systems and discerning consumers who will make a difference in the world.





## Excellence in the Curriculum

Whanganui High School offers a full and varied range of subjects.

The broad base of subjects in

Year 9 allows students to study subjects at an introductory level ensuring choices made in the senior school are based on experience.



### Year 9

All Year 9 students are required to study English, Digital Technologies, Mathematics, Physical Education (including Health), Science, and Social Studies. Students also select option subjects in Languages, Arts and Technology from those outlined below:

#### Languages

*Chinese*  
*French*  
*Spanish*  
*Maori*

#### Arts

*Art*  
*Dance*  
*Drama*  
*Music*

#### Technology

*Design & Visual Communication*  
*Food and Nutrition*  
*Materials Technology*  
*Textiles*

### Year 10

All Year 10 students are required to study English,, Mathematics, Physical Education (including Health), Science and Social Sciences. They are also encouraged to study a range of options as outlined below. Students select options from each of the categories below:

#### Languages

*Chinese*  
*French*  
*Spanish*  
*Maori*

#### Arts

*Art*  
*Dance*  
*Drama*  
*Music*

#### Technology

*Design & Visual Communication*  
*Digital Technology*  
*Food and Nutrition*  
*Materials Technology*  
*Textiles*



## Subjects available to Senior students Years 11 to 13

### ARTS

*Art Design & Media*  
*Art History*  
*Art Painting*  
*Art Photography*  
*Dance*  
*Drama*  
*Music*  
*Music Performance*  
*Performing Arts Academy*  
*Performing Arts Technology*

### ENGLISH

*English General*  
*English Literature*

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

*Digital Technology*  
*Digital Technology Applied*  
*Digital Technology Media*  
*Digital Technology Science*

### LANGUAGES

*Chinese*  
*International English*  
*English*  
*French*  
*Spanish*  
*Te Reo Maori*

### MATHEMATICS

*General Mathematics*  
*Calculus and Geometry*  
*Probability and Statistics*  
*Trigonometry and Algebra*  
*Cambridge Mathematics*

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

*Outdoor Education*  
*Health*  
*Physical Education*  
*Sports Science*  
*Sport & Exercise*

### SCIENCES

*Biology*  
*Chemistry*  
*Physics*  
*Science*

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Accounting*  
*Classical Studies*  
*Economics*  
*Geography*  
*History*  
*Psychology*  
*Social Studies*

### TECHNOLOGY

*Automotive Engineering*  
*Building and Construction*  
*Electronics*  
*Food and Nutrition*  
*Design & Visual Communication*  
*Technology*  
*Textiles and Design*

### OTHER

*Gateway*  
*External Studies*  
*Supervised Study*



## BEHAVIOURAL STANDARDS

The School rules have been established in partnership with the community over a long period of time. They reflect the School community's expectations in terms of acceptable standards of behaviour, dress and personal presentation in the widest sense. Students are expected to follow the School's rules at all times when on the School grounds or when associated with the School. Students are expected to engage in behaviour which:

- promotes the reputation and good name of the School
- promotes learning, including the learning of others
- promotes and helps ensure safety and security
- reflects a high degree of self-respect and self-discipline
- acknowledges the need to show respect for others and their property
- recognises the need to be positive and considerate when dealing with others
- values the School's natural and physical environment.

**Positive Behaviour** is acknowledged frequently. A merit system has been introduced whereby students can enter a draw for rewards for positive behaviour.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

- No student will be allowed to put the safety or learning of another at risk.
- The School expects parental involvement. We are fortunate to serve a community of parents who care for their children and support the School.
- Students who are experiencing difficulties (or causing them), will quickly learn that the School sets clear boundaries, and that the support of parents will quickly be sought if boundaries are broken.
- Students know that the School and the family will work together to ensure their behaviour is acceptable.





## **THE GUIDANCE NETWORK**

New students are welcomed and made to feel valued members of the Whanganui High School community. They are seen as the foundation of the School's future, and their successful entry to the School is therefore vital. A powhiri will welcome students to the School as we acknowledge the important role Primary and Intermediate schools have had in preparing our new entrants.

Seniors will attach themselves to small groups of juniors as they find their way during their first few days. This relationship is extended through an orientation programme early in term one, designed to build confidence and promote a community atmosphere. Whanganui High School is proud of the fact that students settle in quickly and soon adopt the culture of being proud of their School and themselves.

## **FORM TEACHER**

Each student is assigned a form teacher for the year. These staff members are committed to fostering the welfare of students in their care.

## **STUDENT CENTRE**

This facility aims to serve the needs of students and their caregivers. It is the first point of contact for students who require assistance with timetables, fees, health concerns and daily school activities. Parents with student-related queries should contact the Student Centre in the first instance:

Telephone (06) 349 0177.

## **DEANS**

These trained professionals aim to provide student and form teacher support as well as subject selection advice. The Deans have an overview of classes and students, and work with one member of the senior administration team to complete the guidance network for each year level.

## **GUIDANCE & CAREERS COUNSELLORS**

Our team of Guidance Counsellors have extensive training in the broad range of issues which can affect students and their families. They welcome parental contact, and will provide a CONFIDENTIAL self-referral system for any person on any matter. Additional counselling skills are made available through the School or relevant outside agencies as the need arises. The Principal, Administration Staff and Board of Trustees play a vital role in supporting the staff members and students who make up the Guidance Network. Each is committed to the concept of Whanganui High School being a caring and supportive centre for learning.

## **VOCATIONAL STUDIES**

The School has established a Vocational Studies Centre and employs specialists to work with students both in class and on an individual basis. In addition, the Gateway Programme provides opportunities for work experience and links with our tertiary study programmes.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear the prescribed School uniform in a tidy manner. Parents are asked to support the School in achieving this goal. All items are of a particular colour, style and material chosen specifically for Whanganui High School.

The Board of Trustees has delegated to the Principal the authority to rule on all matters relating to uniform, jewellery, hair and standards of personal presentation.

The School limits jewellery to one ear stud or sleeper per ear. A taonga or necklace of cultural significance may be worn. Students are expected to present themselves in a neat and tidy manner, with boys cleanly shaven. Hair must be natural in colour and of a reasonable length and style.

Summer uniform is worn in Terms One and Four. Winter uniform is worn in Terms Two and Three.

Cycle helmets are compulsory, as required by law.



## FINANCIAL

When caregivers enrol their child at Whanganui High School, they will be advised of a 'voluntary donation' as outlined below:

### One Student

Voluntary donation \$150.00 pa.

### Two or more Students per family

Voluntary donation \$200.00 pa.

Family donations are used towards covering the cost of extra-curricular activities, to finance or subsidise cultural and sporting activities and equipment, computer equipment, other essential programmes for which the Government makes insufficient provision, and any other items of expenditure approved by the Board of Trustees.

## SUBJECT CONTRIBUTIONS

Beyond the family donation, care-givers, where applicable, will be requested to pay a subject contribution which covers the cost of take-home components. Details will be provided in the information package sent out when enrolments are confirmed.

A contribution covering all take-home materials, such as work books, is set at \$110 for Year 9 & Year 10 - in addition to the voluntary donation.

## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Costs of School trips, swimming and special events are charged as and when they occur.





## YEAR 9 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are offered in recognition of outstanding ability and potential. A range of scholarships are available in the following areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Sport
- The Arts
- Principal's Scholarship Award

These scholarships are intended for those students who are currently working or performing at a high level in comparison to their peers.

The Academic Scholarship exams usually take place in November each year. These exams are in addition to the entrance exams which are sat by all students coming to Whanganui High School at Year 9.

## ENROLMENTS

The Board is aware that there is likely to be a high demand for places in the



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School. The Board is also aware that it has a responsibility to parents to support them in their wish to enrol students at the school of their choice, i.e. Whanganui High School.

The Ministry of Education has advised the Board that it expects the School to have an enrolment scheme. Therefore the Board has decided upon the zone and associated enrolment procedures outlined in the School's enrolment pack, available from the School.

Whanganui High School accepts a number of students from out of zone. These places are allocated by ballot if necessary, until the roll is full.

The School appreciates the support it receives from the community and welcomes applications from all those families who value the excellent education Whanganui High School can offer.

## OPEN DAY

Our Open Day is held annually. Further information is contained in the enrolment pack or can be found on the school website.

We look forward to receiving your child's enrolment application. If you have any concerns relating to enrolment, please contact the School for advice.

### **Write to:**

The Principal  
Whanganui High School  
PO Box 4022  
WHANGANUI, 4541

### **Email:**

[principal@whanganuihigh.school.nz](mailto:principal@whanganuihigh.school.nz)

### **Telephone:**

School Office: 06 349 0178  
Student Centre: 06 349 0177

### **Facsimile:**

School Office: 06 349 0176

### **School Website:**

[www.whanganuihigh.school.nz](http://www.whanganuihigh.school.nz)