

PROSPECTUS



WAITĀKERE COLLEGE

Creating Futures
Building Communities

Welcome to Waitākere College

I believe three pillars make a great school.

- **Our students** who have high expectations of themselves to 'be the best they can be'.
- **Our teachers** who have high expectations of themselves as professionals and high expectations of their students to achieve their best in each subject.
- **Our parent / whānau community** who feel involved, informed and included in their child's journey through Waitākere College.

We link these pillars to the three tenets of **The Waitākere Way**, our daily code of how we operate. They are:

- **Respect / Tapu** which draws on the values of tolerance, honesty, integrity and asks each of us to respect ourselves and others.
- **Caring / Manaakitanga** which ensures we focus on having a supportive school in all regards. If students feel cared for and safe, they are happy and they learn.
- **Learning / Ako** which is our core business. Our students are encouraged to have high academic aspirations; we support this with SMART goals, which are reviewed each term.

The tenets of The Waitākere Way resonate with the three strands of our “W” symbol of Waitākere College.

Our house system comprises three houses:

- **Manawanui / Perseverance**
- **Mātauranga / Knowledge**
- **Aroha / Love**

These house names reinforce student growth and achievement. We reward students via house points from our weekly reports associated with academic progress.

The three pillars, sustained by the three tenets of The Waitākere Way and our three houses, all support our motto “Achievement for All”, meaning we focus on finding success for each individual student.

Mark P Shanahan
Principal/Tumuaki



Academic achievement is our core business

Waitākere College is a celebration of success. We want students to experience success in as many areas of their teenage lives as possible to ensure they are better young leaders of our future.

We celebrate sporting, cultural and arts success across the college for our students with many opportunities throughout their years here from Year 9 to Year 13.

Preparation for the career pathway past our college years is our key goal. Success in NCEA in Year 11 (NCEA Level 1), Year 12 (NCEA Level 2), and Year 13 (NCEA Level 3) as an academic journey is our core business.

- NCEA pass rates have recovered well after the disruption of the last few years.
- NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3 pass rates are above both the national and equity pass rates for the country.
- Our academic achievement has defied the national decline trend.
- We have continued to outperform in NZQA scholarships exams with four students performing in the top 3% of the country.

Our Academies graduates are sought after as they are already work-ready. Success is about being *better than before*. We work hard to achieve this for the students in our care over their journey with us.



Waitākere College graduates are successful lifelong learners

We aim to make learning exciting and challenging for all our students by:

- Believing that all students can learn
- Understanding that not all students are the same
- Offering a wide range of activities and programmes to meet their different needs

We encourage students to see themselves as successful learners by:

- Setting and reviewing their own learning goals

- Offering choices of programme, topic and learning media
- Building research and study skills
- Sharing and presenting their work
- Taking opportunities to coach, mentor and lead others
- Celebrating their achievements

We aim to get our students' minds engaged by:

- Connecting with their interests
- Building on what they know already
- Helping them discover what they still need to learn
- Offering them meaningful and challenging tasks
- Teaching them how to think with explicit thinking strategies



DUONG VO - International Student and Dux Litteratum





Community Connections

Rich, varied curriculum

We offer courses to cater for many different pathways, from students heading to university or polytech to those aiming for apprenticeships or worthwhile employment. Our curriculum includes:

- Classics, Physics, Calculus, Photography, Design and Visual Communication.
- Academies: Engineering, Automotive, Building, Health, Hospitality, Military Services, Medical Sciences.

Excellent quality teaching

- Quality teachers are our most important resource – innovative, energetic, optimistic, caring, inspirational, hard-working and good-humoured people who enjoy helping young people discover the excitement of learning.
- We attract more and better applicants for teaching positions because we offer more promotion prospects.
- Our advantage as a mid-sized school is that you can follow your subject and passion right through to senior levels. Our curriculum map shows the wide range of subject choices we are able to offer beyond the junior school and into Years 12 and 13.



*The three pillars of our college:
parents, teachers and students
working together*

A sense of belonging

We are focused on providing a positive environment for students to flourish in.

A caring community

- High expectations of standards and behaviour, with consistent consequences if not met.
- A comprehensive harassment prevention programme, which empowers students.
- Trained peer mediators help students resolve conflict at an early stage.
- School-wide active restorative practice implemented by staff, students and pastoral care team.

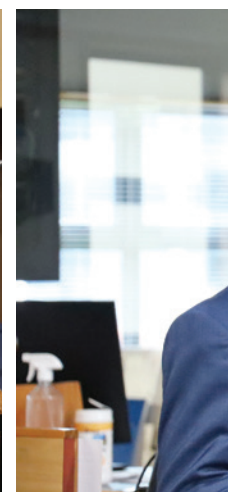


Why Waitākere?

*We wanted to support our
local school and our girls
really love it here.*

Joan Thomas, Parent





SHINE Enrichment Programme

What is SHINE?

SHINE is an enrichment programme designed to extend our most able students ensuring they achieve their academic and personal potential. The pillars of the programme are:

- **Self-management** – face challenges, take risks, time management and goal setting
- **Hauora** – develop confidence, become self-aware and well-being mindfulness
- **Innovation** – encourage curiosity and explore new ideas
- **Nexus** – collaboration with others and expand connections
- **Envision** – using real word learning experiences to imagine future possibilities

How will my child benefit from SHINE?

SHINE develops students into confident, connected learners and strategic thinkers. SHINE students don't do 'comfortable'. They are encouraged to be courageous, challenge the unknown and expand their skill set.

To help them to pursue their aspirations, students are empowered by an accelerated learning environment and supported in their special abilities in academic, artistic, cultural, sporting and leadership areas.

SHINE students remain together through Year 9 to 13 for mentoring, empowering them to wonder and explore, and to become forward-thinking leaders.



Enrichment for gifted and talented students

- Together for core classes for Years 9 and 10
- Academic monitoring and mentoring for Years 11 to 13
- 100% pass rate in NCEA exams with a high rate of Merit and Excellence endorsements
- Higher order thinking skills, goal setting and leadership growth
- Lifelong benefits from social networks and the stimulus of intellectually compatible peers
- Teaching staff stretch students to set goals and reach high achievements
- External and internal competitions, activities and excursions to extend and challenge
- Projects contributing to the community



Hi, I'm Sophie. I am a Year 10 SHINE student. SHINE is an academic class where we get the opportunity to try new things and extend our knowledge. Waitākere College is a very inclusive school and has many opportunities for all students to try. I am in the photography club even though I had never

done a photography class before. It is so much fun - you get to process the photos using different chemicals and then you get to take your printed photos home.

I am also in the school show, which is for anyone who loves anything to do with the performing arts. There are also opportunities for students who don't want to be on stage but want to help backstage.

I would love you to join me at Waitākere College.

Sophie Scott



Sport

We want our students to be active and engaged. Whether your sporting level is having fun with friends or representing the school at the highest level, we encourage you to join a sports team, develop your fitness and technical skills, and get involved.

We have a proud sporting tradition at Waitākere College and offer opportunities for students to pursue their sporting interests. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For more serious athletes, our sports academies offer focused training sessions with expert coaches to help hone your skills.

Waitākere College has a core focus on the following sports:

Football	Volleyball	Hockey
Netball	Basketball	Boccia
Rugby	Badminton	Special Olympics
Touch rugby	Tennis	
Tag	Cricket	

Students have many opportunities to be exposed to a variety of sports through camps, outdoor education, school events and celebrations, and where teachers or parents have a particular sporting interest that they wish to share with the students. If a student has a particular sporting interest, we encourage them to discuss it with us to see if we can help facilitate it. Students may have the opportunity to participate in:

Archery	Golf	Rock climbing
Athletics	Gym sports	Softball
Distance running	Ki o rahi	Squash
Cycling	Lawn bowls	Swimming
Dragon boating	Orienteering	Table tennis

Outdoor Education

The real world outside the classroom has so many opportunities for learning.

Year 10 Camp – Open to all year 10 students, the week-long camp in Term 4 is a highlight for many students. Activities include banana boating, raft building, kayaking, paddle boarding, tramping and other exciting outdoor education opportunities.

Level 1 Sport and Physical Education Camps – This is a compulsory camp for students taking Level 1 Sport or Physical Education with a three-day camp in Term 1.

Level 2 Sport and Physical Education Camps – This is a compulsory camp for students taking Level 2 Sport or Physical Education.

Year 9 Team Building – A full day beach trip run by the school's senior student peer mentors gives our year 9 students the opportunity to participate in team building activities at one of the beautiful West Coast beaches on our back doorstep.





Sports Academies

Our sports academies are designed to encourage students to achieve their sporting goals in their chosen sport. Scholarships are available. Application and trial date details are available on request.

Year 9 Sports Academy Class – The Year 9 Sports Academy runs five of the six timetabled days in the school week. The class has a strength and conditioning focus as well as sport specific training sessions with expert coaches for our core sports of netball, basketball, football and rugby. This year-long course is taken as a subject option during the regular school day.

Students selected for this academy must play their chosen sport for a school sports team. Sports academy trials are held on the first school day of each year.

Year 9 and 10 Football Academy – One extra football training session per week is available to all Year 9 and 10 students who intend to play football for the school. The focus is on improving skills for the 11 v 11 game format.



Year 9 and 10 Rugby Academy – One extra rugby training session per week is available to all Year 9 and 10 students who intend to play rugby for the school. This is for Term 1 only and is run by our school coaches and coaches from the Auckland Rugby Union.

Year 10 Sport Science: Specialist Basketball, Rugby and Football Classes – These timetabled Year 10 classes run five out of six timetabled days of the school week. Each class covers general physical education theory (focused on a basic introduction to anatomy), strength and conditioning training as well as specialist coaching in their chosen sport with a premier coach.

To be considered for these options, students must play their chosen sport for a school team.

Intra-school Basketball – This is an opportunity for any student to compete in our intra-school basketball competition. Run at the college, the competition gives students who already play basketball more game time as well as encouraging those not already playing to give basketball a go. There are boys, girls and mixed competitions for both junior and senior students.

Football Goalkeeper Academy – Specialised football goalkeeper training once per week with an expert goalkeeping coach. Available to the goalkeepers of all our school football teams.





Our students shine in arts and cultural activities.



Arts and Culture



In our mid-sized school, there are many opportunities to follow interests and discover new talents.

A wide range of cultural activities provides opportunities for students to develop their talents and learn new skills. These include the following:

Culture groups – Kapa haka, Indian, Romani, Filipino and our many Pasifika groups.

Music opportunities – the school production, orchestra, jazz band and solo performances.

Dance and Drama – our annual dance showcase, school production, and drama plays and sketches are highlights of our wider performing arts programme.

English and Languages – creative writing, debating and public speaking opportunities.

Arts and Culture Week – celebrating achievements across diverse areas culminating in our Annual Arts and Cultural Awards evening, where we present our supreme award, **Te Taumata Toi**.

Student exchanges and visits from overseas schools are also part of the cultural life of the College.

Performing Arts



The Performing Arts Academy is a programme for Year 9 and 10 students covering all aspects of the performing arts including Drama, Music and Dance, special effects makeup, music video production and other performance related activities.

This programme is suited to students who have a keen interest in theatre, music and dance. Students gain confidence to perform on-stage, developing their stagecraft skills, with opportunities to join the annual school production and other performance related extra-curricular activities. It is a two-year course and leads into the senior NCEA subjects of Drama, Music and Dance.

Students in the Performing Arts Academy can also apply for the SHINE programme.

Applications can be made online followed by an in-person audition.



International Students

Waitākere College has considerable experience and success in educating international students from all over the world.



We understand it is a big decision for a student to study abroad away from their family and friend support networks in a country where they may not speak the language. We take the responsibility for delivering a quality education experience to international students seriously.

Student well-being is key to academic success. Our purpose is to help each student successfully integrate into life in New Zealand and at school so they can achieve academically, discover their talents, pursue their passions and maximise the unique experiences that living in New Zealand can offer.

We want the time our international students spend with us to be a positive, life-changing experience.

Academic

- Start studying any time of year for any duration from one term to five years.
- Broad subject range – academic subjects may be combined with technical subjects at all levels.
- A personalised study programme for long term students.
- Enquiry-based learning – boosting student engagement, critical thinking and memory retention by actively involving them in the learning process. This approach helps learners develop problem-solving skills and adaptability to complex situations.
- Strong support services.
- Experienced ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teachers – students of all English language abilities from beginners to advanced are accepted.
- Weekly monitoring and regular forecasting – identifying topics the student needs to reinforce.
- Well-resourced Careers Department – assisting senior students with subject selection and tertiary pathways beyond school.
- NCEA (National Certificate in Educational Achievement), New Zealand's senior secondary student qualification, is recognised for university entrance worldwide. It uses internal and external assessments to build up the required number of credits according to the future tertiary study goals of each student. NCEA is generally studied in Years 11 to 13 but some NCEA credits may be obtained in Year 10.

At first I was nervous to speak in English. But people were kind to me and I became more confident. Thank you very much for your fun school life. I have learned a lot about New Zealand and am looking forward to my family visiting so I can share the experience with them. Yuno, Japan



Personal Growth

- Unique Māori and Pasifika activities are available to our students alongside 'Kiwi homelife' experiences.
- Local attractions and amenities – our college is only a five-minute walk to the train station with easy access to excellent community, sport and recreational facilities, parks, libraries, shopping, dining and entertainment, business and transport centres. Spectacular beaches and native rainforest are close by.
- Co-curricular activities – international students are encouraged to join in our school clubs or try one of our many sports, as a great way to make new friends and help with English conversation skills.
- Cultural diversity and expression are highly valued at our college, exposing students to many ethnicities to prepare them for future global careers.

Pastoral Care

- Waitākere College is a signatory to the NZ Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students. This system ensures outstanding care and peace of mind for families.
- Students are placed with high quality homestay families, who have passed a robust checking process including a police check. Homestay families are supervised through visits and interviews.
- Students are supported through regular meetings ensuring they feel safe and comfortable both inside and outside school.
- Students can choose to have an assigned 'buddy' to help them adjust to school life in New Zealand.
- An orientation programme is run for all new students.

I enjoyed learning a new part of the English language every day as I could see that I was improving. I made friends and had experiences I would never have had in my country. I have also achieved my NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance credits.

Chanlong, Cambodia

Waitākere College has high level systems to maintain the quality of both education and pastoral care for international students. Progress towards achievement is well monitored and students are well integrated into the college's educational, community and cultural experiences.

Education Review Office

Contacting the International Department

Enrolling as an international student is easy.
Contact us for further information:

Email international@waitakerecollege.school.nz

Phone +64 22 522 2444 or +64 9 836 7890 ext 791





Core Subjects

The New Zealand Curriculum specifies eight learning areas: English, the arts, health and physical education, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social sciences, and technology.

At Waitākere, we work to give students the broadest curriculum possible and this starts with our compulsory subjects featured on this page.

Learning **English** encompasses learning the language, learning through the language, and learning about the language. By engaging with a variety of text forms, students become increasingly skilled and sophisticated speakers and listeners, writers and readers, presenters and viewers.

Science is a way of investigating, understanding, and explaining our natural, physical world and the wider universe and how different cultures and periods of history have contributed to the development of science to develop scientific knowledge, understanding, and evidence-based explanations.





Mathematics explores using symbols, graphs, and diagrams to help find and communicate patterns and relationships, and create models to represent both real-life and hypothetical situations. Mathematics helps interpret, explain and make sense of the world in which we live.

The **Social Sciences** learning area is about how societies work and how people can participate as critical, active, informed and responsible citizens. Contexts are drawn from the past, present and future, and from places within and beyond New Zealand.

Physical Education encourages students to learn to understand, appreciate and move their bodies, relate positively to others, and demonstrate constructive attitudes and values. This learning occurs as they engage in play, games, sport, exercise, recreation, adventure and expressive movement in diverse physical and social environments.

In **Health Education** students develop their understanding of the factors that influence the health of individuals, groups, and society: lifestyle, economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental. Students build resilience by strengthening their identity and sense of self-worth and learning to demonstrate empathy. In developing these skills and understandings they take critical action to promote personal, interpersonal and societal wellbeing.





Curriculum Choices

At Waitākere College, we want students to experience a wide range of options to help inform them of future choices. Each Year 9 option runs for a term.

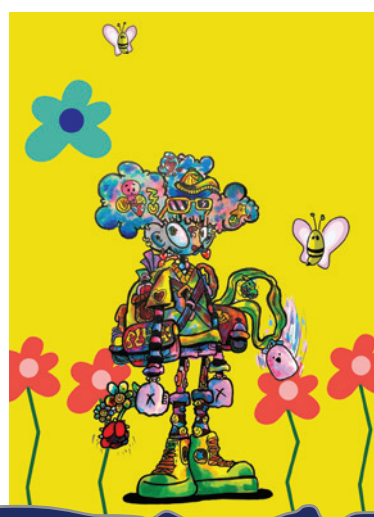


Digital Technology – an engaging and rewarding course covering the thriving digital technologies industry such as programming, web design, animation and game development.

Food and Nutrition Technology – developing skills and confidence in food preparation and presentation through planning and creating a variety of nutritional dishes.



Design Visual Technology – covers product design, architecture, interiors, and landscape through freehand sketching, CAD and modeling to showcase students' ideas.





Hard Materials Technology – traditional hands-on fabrication skills in well-equipped metal and wood workshops to bring their design ideas to life.

Textiles Technology – design and sketching product and fashion creations, translating them into textile outcomes.

Dance – learning different dance genres, exploring choreography and celebrating students’ cultural dance knowledge, students grow in confidence in performing and working with others.



Drama – a taste of all the different aspects of drama, building performance abilities and confidence while having a lot of fun.

Visual Arts – developing skills and confidence building towards a final resolved outcome inspired by an artist.

Music – a beginners’ course for those interested in learning the basics of music including the theory of notation and performance. Free instrumental lessons are offered.

Music Advanced – if you have a musical background, this course builds on previous knowledge and advances music skills in theory and performance.

French – a beginners’ course practising speaking and pronunciation. Topics covered are introductions, numbers, family and culture.

Chinese – a beginners’ course practising pronunciation skills and recognising Chinese characters. Topics covered are greetings, numbers, countries, family and culture.

Sāmoan – a beginners’ course for students who want to learn the basics. Topics covered: my family, culture and school community.

Te Reo Māori – a beginners’ course where students learn basic everyday spoken Māori language. Topics covered: my family, culture and school community.



Vocational Programmes Year 12 & 13

What is Gateway?

Gateway is designed to support school students' transition into the workforce by offering them workplace learning while at secondary school. The programme involves a student entering a workplace one day a week, for a period of time. This hands-on 'real world' learning helps students acquire technical skills relevant to their chosen vocation in addition to general 'work ready' skills, such as time-management and teamwork. There are limited spaces for this programme. Students who apply will go through an interview process with the Gateway teachers before selections are finalised.





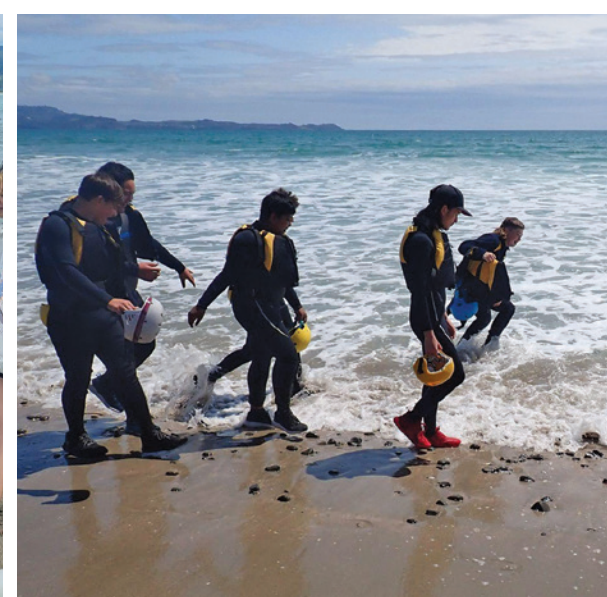
What are Academies?

The academy programmes are funded by the Tertiary Education Commission as an initiative to build a highly skilled and adaptable workforce. The academies cover a range of vocations and involve a combination of in-school and tertiary based training, with work experience available for selected students. Academy students engage in a comprehensive learning programme focused on the development of theoretical knowledge and practical skills targeted at their chosen vocation along with general ‘work ready’ skills such as time-management and interpersonal workplace communication. We are recognised as a best practice model for our successful implementation of these programmes. There are limited academy spaces. Students who apply will go through an interview process before selections are finalised.

Academies available are:

- Automotive Academy L2/3
- Building Academy L2/3
- Engineering Academy L2
- Health Careers Academy L2/3
- Hospitality Academy L3
- Mahi a Toi Academy L2
- Mechatronics Academy L2
- Military Services Academy L2
- Uniformed Services Academy L3 (Police, Army, Navy, Air Force, Customs)







Education Outside the Classroom



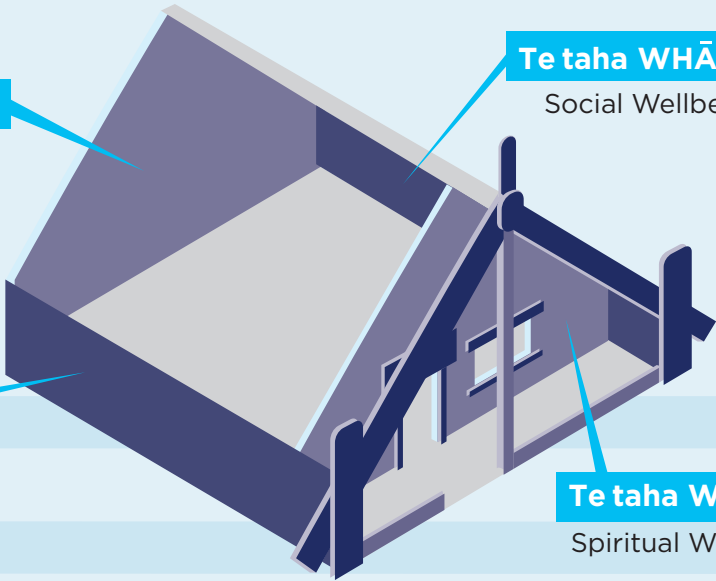
Our Hauora Whare Walls

Te taha HINENGARO
Mental and Emotional
Wellbeing

Te taha TINANA
Physical Wellbeing

Te taha WHĀNAU
Social Wellbeing

Te taha WAIRUA
Spiritual Wellbeing



Hauora and Wellbeing at School

As well as liaising with partner agencies as required, in-school wrap-around pastoral care for the wellbeing of students and staff consists of the following services:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Careers advisors | • Waitākere College Foundation | • Nurses and doctors | • Dental care |
| • Deans | • Learning support and teacher aides | • Student initiated faith support | • Counsellors |
| • Mentors | | • Physio | • Regular professional development for all staff. |
| • Youth workers | | | |



Creating Futures Building Communities



WAITĀKERE COLLEGE

LEARNING

Ako We are all here to learn

WE LIVE BY
OUR VALUES

CARING

Manaakitanga
We all care for each other

RESPECT

Tapu

We treat everyone with respect

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Waitākere College
zoning information here