



# Don House Boarder Handbook

## ***A Great National Boarding School***



Waitaki's legendary Rector, Mr Frank Milner (1906-44), that the founding fathers dream of a boarding school on a national scale was achieved. His inspirational leadership of Waitaki created a school which became known throughout the English-speaking world. A check of Waitaki's roll in 1909 tells the story of a dramatic increase, with a roll of 204 boys of which 145 were boarding students. In Mr Milner's final year at Waitaki, the boarding roll stood at 212- the highest for over 20 years.

*Waitaki Boys High School Rector Frank Milner (1906-44)*



Our house is named after Dr Don, Rector from 1897 to 1905, shown as second Rector by the two green 'bars'. The theme records the 'gospel of hard work' so favoured by Dr Don. The Aladdin's lamp represents the light of knowledge & the crossed quills show the quest of learning.

Our Motto is Diligentia et Labore – Labour with Diligence.

## ***Director of Boarding Comment***

Kia Ora and a warm welcome to the Don House Handbook. Don House is the boarding establishment of Waitaki Boys High School.

Located in the coastal township of Oamaru, Don House has a proud tradition of moulding boys into fine young men of outstanding character. Don House boarders are confidently able to contribute positively to their school, families and communities and leave Don House as well rounded, educated young men.

Staff at Don House are dedicated, experienced, and holistically focused on all Don House boarders. We ensure that all our boys have a safe and enjoyable experience and feel a strong sense of belonging in Don House. Every boy is seen as an integral part of the Don House whanau.

Don House facilities include 4 dormitories and a large communal common room. The Director of Boarding and Residential Manager offices are attached to the common room allowing great supervision and creating an energetic family atmosphere. Staff housing is all within proximity and staff are actively involved each day. A unique aspect of the Don House dormitories is that all boarders from Year 10 to Year 13 have individual rooms. The Year 12 and 13 boarders have their own kitchen and lounge area that helps with the transition from hostel life to being a young adult.

Recreational facilities include swimming and diving pool, full sized gym, weights room, tennis courts, turfed area, soccer, rugby and cricket fields, cricket nets and trapshooting range. Don House boarders are encouraged to take every opportunity and we have access to a wide range of off-site activities that we transport our boarders to each day.

Here at Don House, we are fortunate to have a diverse team from a variety of cultural and professional backgrounds who are passionate about supporting our Don House boys in reaching their full potential. Each member of our team utilises their own skill set when fulfilling their role, are open minded and can be flexible in their approach whilst continuing to uphold the values and boundaries that are important to Don House.

Alongside encouraging our Don House boys to do well academically and with their extracurricular activities, we also focus on developing our boys emotional, social, spiritual and independence skills to prepare our young men for the world they will be entering.

Director of Boarding  
Scott Mayhew  
[scottm@waitakibhs.school.nz](mailto:scottm@waitakibhs.school.nz)  
027 285 3885

## ***Don House Mission Statement***

We endeavour to create a wholesome family environment. We teach, model, and encourage all Don House boarders to follow and demonstrate the Don House values, always.

We challenge the boarders to set goals and aspirations and teach them the tools needed to achieve them. A small hostel that prides giant care and pastoral support. We get to know each individual personally and set high standards for personal growth.

## PURPOSE

An individual and collective purpose to be better each day.

## PERSISTENCE

A consistent effort, enriching our journey towards our individual and collective goals.

## INTEGRITY

A quality demonstrated by Don House boarders to do the right thing at the right time, even when no one is looking.

## GROWTH

Don House staff and boarders have a consistent journey towards self-discovery and self-improvement.

### ***Don House Motto: Diligentia et labore - Labour with diligence***

We endeavour to create a wholesome family environment.  
We teach, model & encourage all young men to follow the Don House values.  
We challenge our boys to set goals & give them the tools needed to achieve them.



***Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu  
Although it is small, it is precious***



### ***A Don House Day***

- **6.45am** – Morning duty staff arrive and prepare the day ahead. This will include any morning activities the boys have selected (run, swim, etc)
- **7.30am**- Wake up. Duty staff and/or dorm monitors will wake you for the day.
- **7.45am – Breakfast:** Breakfast is in the Dining Room & consists of a selection of cereals, brown or white bread/toast, a selection of spreads & fruit. You will also have a choice of water, milk, or hot chocolate for drinks.
- **8.15am – Return to Dorm:** You will have time to shower, brush your teeth, check your school bag & get ready for your day. *(You are welcome to shower before breakfast if you are up in time).*
- **8.40am – Room Inspection:** Your dorm monitor will inspect your room to ensure you are keeping your room tidy and to a high standard; this includes keeping your cupboard & the area under your bed tidy too.
- **8.45am – Device Issued:** We are a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) School so you will be given your device for schoolwork. Phones will remain in the locked box until after school. Years 11-13 are expected to self-manage this.
- **8.50am – Dorms are locked:** You will begin to make your way over to school.
- **8.55am – First School Bell = Head to Period 1:** Your school day runs from 9am – 3.05pm. You are not allowed to return to Don House/hostel area during your school day unless you have an appointment. If you need support or to contact Scott during your school day you can do so by seeking support via your Deans' Suite & speaking to Mrs Bond or one of the Deans.
- **3.05pm – End of School Day:** You can collect Afternoon Tea from the Dining Hall. Once back in Don House you should change out of your uniform, hanging it up for the following day or putting it in your dirty laundry basket. Co-Curricular commitments take priority in this time. This time can include attending training sessions, sports, physical activities or chilling out in the Common Areas. All boarders have casual leave from 3.15PM till 4.45PM.
- **5.15pm - Dinner:** You are expected to head over to the dining hall from 5.15pm. Once everyone is seated, we'll say a Karakia, then each year group will go up to the servery to collect their dinner; starting with Year 13's & finishing with Year 9's. On occasion we will invite different year groups up first or share kai together in our Kohtahitanga groups.
- **6.15pm – Prep:** Prep runs for an hour Tuesday – Thursday. During this time, you are expected to complete homework, revision tasks, reading &/or other tasks to support your learning/school subjects. You will have support from Team Leaders, House master's & a schoolteacher during these sessions. Reminder no boarder to return to dorms between prep and dinner. Prep is also an time for upskilling so boarders are encouraged to seek new learning opportunities outside of their core subjects.
- **7.30pm – Evening Activities:** After Prep there will be a variety of activities available to you. Team Leaders & House Masters will arrange sports games in the gym or on the turf, board games, card games, table tennis, table football &/or watch sports or movies in the common room. During the summer months you will also have access to the swimming & diving pools. Supper will be organised around activities.
- **8.45pm – Register Devices:** Year 9's & 10's must hand in all phones & devices to be stored overnight. Phones will be kept in a locked box & devices in a locked charging unit.
- **9.00pm – Roll Calls** From 9.00pm Team Leaders & House masters will complete roll calls for each dorm; 9.00pm – Year 9, 9.15pm – Year 10, 9.30pm – Year 11, 9.45pm – Year 12 & 10.00pm – Year 13.
- **10.15PM:** Duty staff will ensure all boys are settled in their rooms and complete safety checks prior to placing dorm alarms on.
- **10.30PM:** Alarms are set, and staff complete final "sweeps" of boarders and dorms.

### ***Prep: Labour with Diligence***

Supervised study time gives boarders the opportunity to complete homework and assignments. Junior boarders are set a variety of tasks by us to complete if they do not have any homework from their classes. Prep enables boarders to work together to achieve their academic goals and we often have WBHS teachers join us which offers great support and academic growth. A computer suite is available, and boys are welcome to use their personal devices. Boarders are encouraged to seek new learning opportunities and demonstrate personal growth in an area of their choosing. This is to be confirmed by duty staff prior to beginning.

## ***Inspections: Purpose, Persistence, Integrity, Growth***

Each weekday morning and Sunday evening room and dorm inspections are held. Boarders are to be ready for the day and have their room and dorm at an acceptable standard.

### ***House Meetings: Persistent***

Every second Monday we meet as a house and discuss aspects of the hostel and boarder's day's that need to be presented to all. These meetings give the boarders the opportunity to discuss everything Don House in a safe and encouraging environment. We often have clips of motivational speakers and role models that the boarders can learn and apply in their day.

### ***Leadership:***

Leadership is seen as the ability to motivate a group of people towards a common goal.

Leadership takes many forms in Don House and each day we actively discuss and demonstrate leadership. Don House leaders uphold the values and encourage others to demonstrate and uphold the Don House values in all endeavours. Leadership roles include:

- Don House Head Prefect
- Don House Prefects
- Don House Dorm Monitors

### ***Integrity:***

Don House boarders pride themselves in being honest and truthful in their actions. A young man with integrity can do the right thing, at the right moment, when no one is watching.

Don House staff engage and promote the notion of integrity and as part of our daily routine.



## ***Don House Communication***

Communication between staff, boarders and parents is essential. Staff and caregivers are working in a partnership that ensures all boarders are safe and where they need to be at all times.

Please use the following to communicate with Don House:

Don House Phone: 027 406 6608  
Director of Boarding: Scott Mayhew  
[scottm@waitakibhs.school.nz](mailto:scottm@waitakibhs.school.nz)  
027 285 3885

## ***Leave***

All leave is a privilege not a right and all Don House boarders are taught to respect this privilege and the self and time management that is required to ensure all leave is safe and within the Don House values and boundaries. All casual leave is to be requested and then recorded in the appropriate place. All over night/weekend leave must be in by 12PM on the Thursday prior to the upcoming weekend.

## ***Transport***

All boarders have access to a wide range of off-site activities. We can provide transport in the hostel van. Boarders can put their names up on the board and notify staff well in advance of the activity.

Personal transport can be locked away in the bike lock up located within the hostel buildings. All boarders who bring personal transport must bring appropriate safety equipment e.g; bike helmet's etc.

Having a car or motorbike at Don House is a privilege reserved for Year 12 and 13 Boarders. Boarders must fill out a vehicle form for both school and hostel which allows them to have a vehicle on school property. Failure to do adhere to school and hostel rules may result in losing this privilege.

## ***Personal Devices***

Waitaki Boys High School is a BYOD school and encourages students to bring their own learning device. Cell phones are not permitted at school. As a hostel Don House encourages boarders to have their own learning devices and cell phones so that they can maintain contact and continue their learning outside of the normal school hours. Don House has its own wifi access that is monitored through the Waitaki Boys High School tech team.

Don House junior boarders are register their devices each night at 8 45pm. They are to be locked away for the evening so to encourage good rest and social interaction. Their phones are then returned to the boarder after morning room inspections. Senior boarders can their keep devices and are trusted to make good decisions around their sleep habits and academic progress.

## ***Boarders Rooms***

Each Don House boarder has his own room and is encouraged to make his room feel and look homely. We have strict inspections at 8.40AM each day and our boarders are expected to present their room with pride each morning. Each room has a heater, storage cupboards, wardrobes and lots of natural lighting.

### ***Uniform and Clothing***

It is very important that all clothing, bathroom linen and bedding is clearly named. Formal uniforms must be worn when representing the school and Don House in sport or formal occasions. School uniforms must be always worn correctly. Socks pulled up, shirts button up and tucked in with polished shoes. All clothing must be clearly named.

### ***Personal Property***

All boarders have a lockable cupboard in which they can safely store valuables. The responsibility for the storage and security rests with the boarder.

### ***Laundry***

Don House boarders are provided a laundry service. Boarders are to self-manage this and can drop their laundry down at breakfast. Each afternoon the boarders have supervised access to the laundry, and they can collect their belongings which has been washed, dried, folded and placed in their personal space.

### ***Weekends***

Don House boarder weekends are filled with activities. We are extensively involved in the school co-curricular programme. Alongside this we provide opportunities for our boarders to experience the resources of Oamaru and our school. From mountain biking to fishing our boarders are encouraged to engage in a variety of experiences.

### ***Boarding Bursaries and Scholarships***

Bursaries and scholarships are available for applicants looking for financial assistance with boarding fees.

Other scholarships available to apply for are:

Sports Council Scholarships  
Rugby Scholarships  
Basketball Scholarships  
Cricket Scholarships  
Fraser Farm Scholarship

For more information, please contact the school office or visit

[www.waitakibhs.school.nz/enrolments/scholarships](http://www.waitakibhs.school.nz/enrolments/scholarships)

### ***International Boarders***

Don House has a vibrant international community. Currently we have boarders from the Cook Islands and Thailand. Traditionally most of the international boarders originate from Thailand and Japan. International boarders become fully immersed in the Don House and kiwi culture. From working on the farm, learning the English language through engaging with staff and boarders and becoming involved in team sports. Having international boarders also benefits our domestic boarders. It gives them the opportunity to learn about a new culture, embrace differences and find similarities.

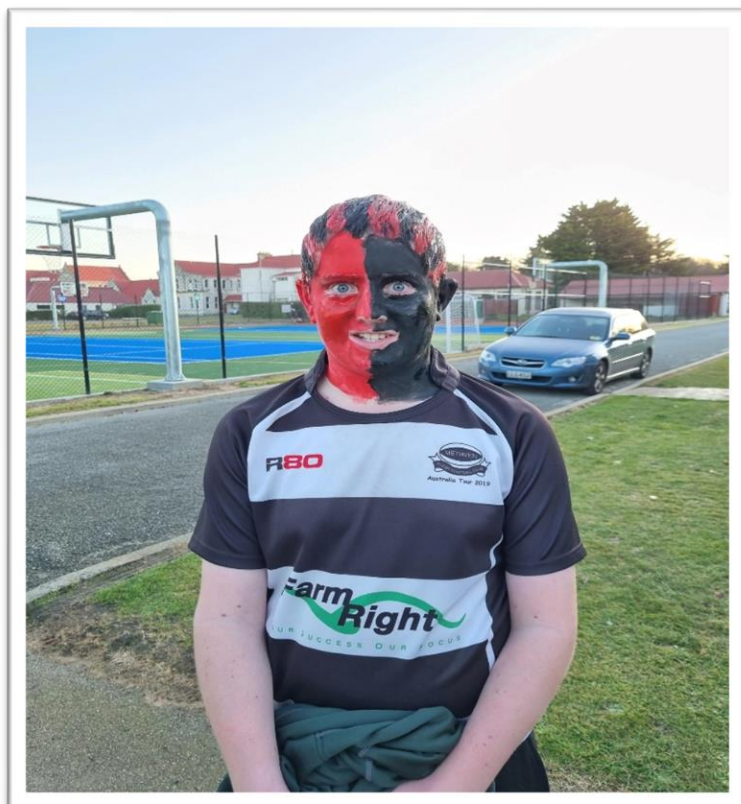


## ***Programmes and Activities***

### **Programmes:**

Don House staff and boarders engage in a wide range of programmes that help holistically develop our boarders. These programmes include

- Don House Shield Competition
- Dorm Monitoring that develops personal and group responsibility
- Year 9 recreation that develops teamwork and brotherhood
- Prep programme that encourages academic progress and life skills
- House meetings
- Community work and volunteering
- "Better than we found it" programme where we work together to improve our hostel.
- Year 13 Life skills programme



Don House staff provide a wide range of activities for our boarders that provide fun and exciting experiences for the boarders. These activities are chosen by the boarders and include:

- WBHS Co-curricular programme
- Fishing
- Skiing
- Kiwi Water park
- Highlander Rugby Games
- Paintball Shooting
- Don House Lakes Day
- Day Tramps
- Beach activities
- Golfing
- Swimming Pools

"I like Don House because of all of the opportunities it gives you while in High School".

*Year 9 boarder*

"Being in Don House is handy for sports, you learn good time management & how to get on with other people".

*Year 11 boarder*

"I think that Don House hostel is like a home away from home to me, it's taught me to be more considerate to others and has given me real world experience about how to treat people from different cultures and households. The staff at Don House are kind and caring and are always there if you need a chat".

*Year 11 boarder*

"Don House is one big family, we are all brothers. All the boys & staff have been very supportive through my years in Don House".

*Year 11 boarder*

"I've made friends for life from being in Don House. We get to meet people from all different backgrounds & hostel life helps prepare you for halls at Uni or flatting".

*Year 13 boarder*



