



# Waitaki Boys'

## HIGH SCHOOL



Prospectus



# Welcome to Waitaki Boys' High School

Our mission here at Waitaki Boys' High School is to be, "Inspiring young men of outstanding character".

We are enriched by a proud heritage, but forward-looking and progressive in our task of educating boys to meet the challenges of the current day and beyond.

The environment and traditions of the school have exercised a remarkable effect upon generations of boys. We are blessed with a spectacular site, magnificent buildings and gardens, and generous resources. Our ethos is that our boys will be "inspiring young men of outstanding character". They will reflect our school values of Respect, Resilience and Motivation in striving to be the all-round Waitakian. We are clear about our primary task. It is to identify and develop the potential of every boy.

With a roll of just over 440, we are small enough to know each boy well, and to recognise his individual character and needs, but large enough to offer an extensive academic and growing vocational curriculum, and an impressive co-curricular programme.

Our students are proud to be Waitakians. You will find here a tremendous sense of brotherhood. The big 'events' of the school year such as the Anzac Day Service, Scrano Cultural Competition and the Senior Prizegiving are inspirational. The enthusiasm and vitality of the boys shines through.

The primary purpose of this prospectus is to outline the breadth of opportunities which

are available to your son at Waitaki Boys'. This is a very exciting time for our school and I am looking forward to sharing this journey with your sons.

Darryl Paterson  
Rector





# Enriched by the Past

**Waitaki Boys' was founded in 1883 and is one of the oldest schools in the country.**

The magnificent main buildings, in Oamaru stone, date from that period. In the 1920's a breath-taking Hall of Memories was built in the perpendicular English gothic chapel style.

Assemblies and ceremonial occasions in the Hall are enhanced by one of New Zealand's finest pipe organs. These historic buildings have all earned an 'A Grade' Historic Places Trust listing. The school is also handsomely endowed with 32 hectares of spacious grounds. They are laid out in impressive playing fields, lawns, gardens and shrubbery.

Under the rectorship of Mr Frank Milner (1906-44) Waitaki Boys' established a national reputation for the rigour and excellence of its academic and sporting programmes and for its remarkable esprit de corps. It attracted boys from throughout New Zealand.

Milner promoted the concept of the all round boy, which has shaped the Waitaki education ever since and is reflected in the school's mission statement. Old Waitakians have become leaders in all areas of life. They have included 16 knights, 13 All Blacks, 8 Cabinet Ministers, a VC winner.

# Prepared for the Future

For over 140 years, Waitaki Boys' High School has prepared students for the challenges of the future. Those challenges are constantly changing.

In today's world Waitaki graduates must be independent, self-motivated, flexible and confident learners, and articulate, co-operative and personable young men.

The goal for the near future of the school is to have programmes that answer the needs of the student as opposed to the students being fitted into programmes. To this end we have a growing vocational pathways programme, a partnership with ARA Polytechnic and also classes available at Waitaki Girls' High School, and offer an ever broadening curriculum. Student feedback along with consultation with the community will be an important part of this approach.

A BYOD (Bring your own device) policy is now embedded at the school and it is now the case that every boy in the school has access to a digital device.



# Academic Achievement

The primary purpose of Waitaki Boys' High School is academic achievement through goal setting, development of a strong work ethic and meeting high expectations. We expect every boy to fulfil his academic potential.

Students are challenged to stand up for themselves, to develop resilience and be highly motivated. The school offers a full range of academic and vocational pathways. They are supported by modern IT and leading technology.

Our teachers have an understanding of the individual learning needs of all our students. We aim to empower boys as learners and to encourage in them responsibility for their own learning so they are active, not passive learners.

There is an increasing emphasis on vocational pathways providing students opportunities to gain credits in the workplace. All boys are equally valued, but individualised learning needs are assessed. This allows those with the highest aspirations as

well as those requiring a fully supported learning environment to achieve success.

In 2024 we implemented a new Period 5 programme. Formal teaching and learning continues on a Tuesday and Thursday. On Mondays we have a full School Assembly to celebrate success and enhance our positive school culture. On a Wednesday we have whānau time, with smaller numbers and more time whānau teachers can better meet individual pastoral needs. Each whānau time begins with 20 minutes silent reading to improve the boys literacy. A mentoring support programme is provided specifically through this whānau time.

On a Friday we have an Inspire Programme where our boys are engaged in classes that are "passions" of the staff and that they have selected. Classes include Cooking, Art Studio, Young Farmers, numerous Sports academics, Polyfest, Adventure Sports, to name but a few. The Inspire Programme also runs on Tuesday, Period 4.



## NCEA Academic Performance 2025

Our academic performance at NCEA continues to improve every year.

### Highlights

- Level 1 Endorsement rate at 40%, was well above both national boys and equity index rate (best from the school in the last 5 years).
- Level 2 pass rate at 72% (best from the school in the last 4 years) was above the national boys average.
- Level 3 pass rate at 76% (best from the school in the last 5 years) was above the national boys average and Level 3 Excellence endorsement rate (best from the school in the last 5 years) was well above the national boys average.
- 24 Excellence endorsements across Level 1-3 was a 200% improvement on 2024
- 45 overall endorsements compared to 34 in 2024.

# Waitakians for Life

## The Waitaki Boys' vision is founded on our community's values.

We are aiming for a balanced, all-round student with achievement in academic, cultural, sporting and an emphasis on character development - to be "inspiring young men of outstanding character".

### Cultural Achievement

We offer abundant cultural opportunities and we respect the actor, the musician and the debater. Many of these opportunities are generated in partnership with Waitaki Girls' High School. Recent years have also seen a developing strength in Māori and Polynesian cultural performances, adding a new and valuable aspect to our global citizenship, widening our cultural perspective. Our Scrano cultural competition is a highlight of the calendar.

### Sporting Achievement

We offer a comprehensive sporting programme, excellent coaching from staff and local sports people, and outstanding onsite facilities, including a relatively new multi-purpose turf. Last May our new Performance Centre opened. In 2025 we have already celebrated National Champions in Rowing, Duathlon and Challenge Wanaka and are currently Aoraki Champions in Chess, Golf, Touch Rugby and Volleyball. Sport has huge benefits for boys. They make new friends, grow in confidence and

develop physical skills. Through their involvement they learn more about themselves. They develop good sportsmanship, learn about competition, teamwork, discipline, initiative and how to win with good grace. Sport is character building. For students aspiring to achieve at that next level we have our Waitaki Academy of Sports Performance (WASP). We also offer sports scholarships for new students.

### Character Development

The school runs a values programme which underpins our emphasis on character development. Through the Rector's assemblies the values of respect, resilience and motivation are focused on.

The He Ara Tika Award scheme rewards the personification of these school values and is the cornerstone of our PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) programme. As part of the well-being programme, a weekly leadership programme is now underway which sees Year 13 students leading peer support of the Year 9 students and student leaders are actively involved in community service.

**Waitaki Boys' is a safe, secure, supportive community in which boys can flourish and fulfil their potential.**



# Curriculum Pathways

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Science	Science	L1 Science
English ESOL	English *ESOL	L1 English ESOL
Mathematics	Mathematics	L1 Mathematics
Social Science	Social Science *Business Studies *Pasifika Studies	L1 History L1 Geography L1 Accounting L123 Pasifika Studies
*Technology	*Technology *Digital Technology	L1 Hard Materials Technology L1 Digital Technology
Physical Education	*Physical Education *Outdoor Education	L1 Sports Studies L1 Outdoor Education
*Art	*Art	L1 Art
*Music	*Music	L1 Music
*Agriculture	*Agriculture	L1 Agriculture Science
Careers		L1 Vocational Pathway
Te Kura	Te Kura	Te Kura
*Te Reo Māori	*Te Reo Māori	*Te Reo Māori

YEAR 12	YEAR 13
L2 Biology L2 Chemistry L2 Physics	L3 Biology L3 Chemistry L3 Physics
L2 English Academic L2 English Everyday ESOL	L3 English Academic L3 English Everyday ESOL
L2 Mathematics with Calculus L2 Mathematics with Statistics	L3 Mathematics with Calculus L3 Mathematics with Statistics L3 Mathematics Everyday L3 Mathematics Further Study
L2 History L2 Geography L2 Accounting L123 Pasifika Studies	L3 History L3 Geography L3 Accounting L123 Pasifika Studies
L2 Hard Materials Technology L2 Digital Technology	L3 Construction L3 Digital Technology L3 Engineering
L2 Sports Studies L2 Outdoor Education	L3 Sports Studies
L2 Painting/Printmaking L2 Photography	L3 Painting/Printmaking L3 Photography
L2 Music	L3 Music
L2 Agriculture Science	L3 Agriculture Science
ARA L2 Agricultural Engineering ARA L2 Automotive Engineering ARA L2 Hospitality L23 Vocational Pathway L23 Gateway	L23 Vocational Pathway L23 Gateway
Te Kura	Te Kura
*Te Reo Māori	*Te Reo Māori

Year 9 - Options\* (8 weeks)

Year 10 - (2 options per semester)



# Fraser Farm

## “Preparing for the Future in Primary Production”

The Fraser Farm has been developed to meet the industry requirements for young people who are enthusiastic about the sector and are striving to make a career in Primary Production.

A Fraser Farm Committee made up of farmers and industry people oversee the direction and vision of the farm. There is enormous support from the wider farming community for the students and the farm. Students are encouraged to take part in the management and day to day running of the Fraser Farm, including weekends.

With the boarding facilities and Fraser Farm, Waitaki Boys' High School is ideally placed to support young men in their quest to join one of the most exciting and dynamic industries in New Zealand. In the Junior School, all Year 9 students take part in an Agriculture rotation. The content of this concentrates of the basics of Agricultural production – soils, pastures and stock. Each term is tailored to meet the requirements of the class. In 2025, a brand new purpose built class room has been opened for our Agriculture programme.

Waitaki Boys' High School has been approved to deliver and assess Primary ITO courses. We now offer not only practical but a tertiary pathway through our Agriculture programme. In 2025 we are working in conjunction with Lincoln University to deliver this programme.

### FRASER FARM SCHOLARSHIPS

Three Fraser Farm scholarships to the value of \$1000 each are being offered to incoming Waitaki Boys' High School pupils. They will be given to boys who would board in the school hostel.

The scholarships will be awarded to boys who are starting as year 9 pupils. They are bestowed in memory of the late Trevor Meikle, a past pupil and retired farmer who worked as a volunteer to reinstate the school's Fraser Farm. Waitaki Boys' is the only school in the South Island with its own farm, and one of only four in New Zealand. It has a 16ha farm on the school site. A small team of retired farmers are helping agricultural studies pupils with hands-on lessons such as weighing and drenching livestock, feed budgeting, shearing, and handling farm machinery for example.

To apply please send in a CV outlining your interest in Agriculture and Waitaki Boys' High School and relevant references. Applications should be submitted either electronically to:

**rector@waitakibhs.school.nz**

**or via post to:** The Rector, Waitaki Boys' High School, Private Bag 50057, OAMARU 9444

# Don House

Waitaki Boys' is one of the nation's leading boarding schools for boys.

Since the school's founding in 1883 many thousands have graduated as confident, well-rounded young men. The legacy of past generations continues to influence the boys, and the backdrop provided by the school's historic buildings is a constant reminder of this rich heritage.

Boys attending the boarding hostel – Don House – gain all of this and more. Boys in Don House have separate rooms from Year 9, along with a staff to student ratio of 1:4, which allows for outstanding pastoral care. Director of Boarding Ryan Wilson leads this team. A number of Hostel Staff also teach at the school.

Students live right on the very doorstep of all that Waitaki offers, assisting them to achieve their personal, cultural, social, sporting and academic goals. Indeed, Waitaki Boys' teachers have been quoted as saying: "...in my classroom, I look to Don House boys to set the standard."

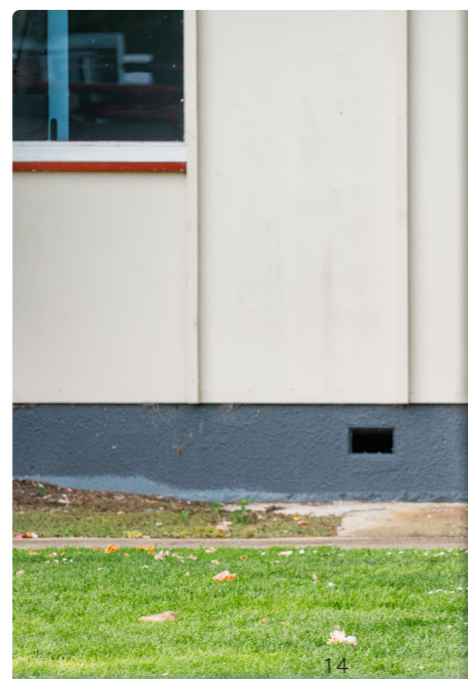
Don House is a great place to live and a great place to study. Discover the 'X-factor' which sets this hostel apart from others.

In 2023 Don House received a glowing endorsement from ERO (Education Review Office). Their report included comments such as "...changes have led to considerable positive developments in hostel management, operations, policies and procedures...Boarders receive high quality pastoral care and support with their health and wellbeing. Students spoken with valued the ways in which hostel staff do everything they can to ensure boarders get the most out of their time Waitaki Boys' High School... Recent survey indicates high levels of satisfaction from parents about their sons experience in relation to hostel life and their care".

## Some words from our Don House families:

*"Don House has a great culture. My son feels safe and happy in hostel. It has a very family-friendly feel. A definite brotherhood."*

*"WOW, where do I start, the two sleepovers my son had prior to starting said it all... 'Mum it's like a big family who look out for each other'. The information sent out prior to coming to hostel was amazing. Being a parent and letting your baby go is hard enough but what has been so reassuring is the amount of correspondence/support/information the school gives."*



# Inspiring young men of outstanding character



**Waitaki  
Boys'**  
HIGH SCHOOL

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