

WHANGAREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



International Prospectus



WELCOME TO WHANGAREI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

*Offering a world of opportunity
in Whangarei, New Zealand!*



Welcome to our school

Founded in 1881, Whangarei Girls' High School is a dynamic and vibrant school community dedicated to excellence. Our students leave well prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

We are delighted to welcome international students to our school and enjoy helping them to improve their English, achieve their academic goals and experience our beautiful country. At the same time, we enjoy learning about other countries and cultures, as we prepare our students to find their place in today's world.

We are proud of our 130 year history as a successful and highly regarded school, providing strong academic achievement and extensive curriculum across many subjects. Student success lies at the heart of all our decision making. We 'empower tomorrow's women' to be leaders and to gain the skills, knowledge and values to become global citizens.

Our warm and friendly school community offers a safe and supportive learning environment, with countless opportunities for students to excel inside and outside the classroom.

We warmly welcome you to our school!

Anne Cooper,
Principal





Our school motto

Empowering Tomorrow's Women

The Fideliter Code was created by our entire school community, and represents the values and principles that our students strive for every day.

The Fideliter Code has four goals:

Working together - Mahi tahi: by working with others, listening to other people's points of view, negotiation and sharing ideas.

Giving our best - Kia kaha, kia toa: by being responsible, extending yourself, being cooperative, working hard, being on time.

Having integrity - Tika me te pono: by being honest and truthful, showing sportsmanship, being fair to others, taking responsibility.

Showing respect - Manaaki tangata: showing good manners, being polite and thoughtful of others, caring for the environment, always wearing the correct uniform.

OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAM

We have a dedicated team who care for our international students, beginning with their safe arrival in New Zealand. We offer 24/7 support, with everything from choosing classes and joining school clubs, to planning social trips and ensuring quality accommodation.



Amelia Morrison – International Director

- Oversees school commitment to the International Code of Practice
- Ensures high quality of care for international students
- Liaises with agents in New Zealand and overseas



Toni Richardson – International Student Manager

- Provides 24 hour pastoral care and support to students
- Organises school orientation programme and plans social activities
- Ensures students are placed with supportive, friendly homestay families

We look forward to meeting you!

Please contact us or visit our website for application forms, fees schedule and policies, and further information on our school and our region.

Phone: **+64 9 4304460**

Email: **international@wghs.school.nz**

Website: **www.wghs.school.nz**



Welcome to Whangārei!

Whangarei Girls' High School is located in Whangārei, Northland's largest city. People of all cultures and religions are welcomed and celebrated here; we pride ourselves on being safe, friendly, respectful and inclusive. We also enjoy New Zealand's warmest climate.

Our region is stunningly beautiful, with unspoilt beaches, harbours and forests. Whangārei offers a relaxed, outdoor lifestyle, with great cafes and restaurants as well as markets, cultural events, sports competitions and festivals. Far away from the crowds and pressures of big-city living, Whangārei gives you the space to enjoy your life as well as your studies.

We are just a 30 minute flight or 2 ½ hour drive from Auckland, so it makes travel easy when you first arrive in New Zealand, and also if you want to visit New Zealand's biggest city during your stay.



PREPARE FOR THE BEST FUTURE IN NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand education system is one of the best in the world. New Zealand was recently ranked the number one country in the world for preparing students for the future, by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). New Zealand was recognised as being a modern, progressive and open-minded country with an education system that develops in-demand skills such as critical thinking, creativity, independence and teamwork.

Best of all, while studying in New Zealand, you can expect a diverse range of learning experiences inside and outside the classroom. Our practical, hands-on approach teaches students to use their knowledge in real-world situations and enables students to grow personally as well as academically.

All schools adhere to national government standards and New Zealand students' PISA scores for literacy, maths and science are amongst the highest in the world.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Code of Practice

When international students come to study in New Zealand, we have a special Code of Practice to ensure you are well informed and well cared for during your visit. Whangārei Girls' High School takes pride in meeting and exceeding the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice requirements, including 24/7 care for all our international students while in New Zealand.

Safe, supportive school community

Within our school community, we have many people committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment for our students.

All students have a whanau (Māori for 'family') class, where they begin school each day.

Strong bonds form within the whanau classes, with the whanau teachers being trusted advisors for their students. Each whanau class belongs to one of our school houses: Bell, Lovelock, Manaia, Mansfield, Rutherford and Sheppard.

Our Guidance Counsellors provide students with a confidential service to help deal with difficult personal situations, such as homesickness and culture shock. You can also visit with a nurse, physiotherapist and doctor at our student support centre.



Arrival and orientation

We ensure all students arrive safely to their homestay or the hostel in Whangārei, either flying from Auckland to Whangārei or travelling via a private shuttle, organised prior to your arrival. If you come by plane to Whangārei Airport, we will meet you there with your host family, and if you arrive by private shuttle, they will deliver you directly to your host family or to the school hostel.

We offer a full orientation on arrival at school, including time spent getting to know each other at the International Department, as well as a tour of the school and local city, arranging your classes and timetable, and planning for extra-curricular club activities. This is an important time to help you settle into the school.

International department meetings

All international students meet every week at the International Office, to talk about upcoming events and trips, celebrate birthdays and share any news from our department and the school. It's a great way to stay connected with our students each week.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES



Study opportunities

We offer an exciting and extensive curriculum, built around New Zealand's internationally recognised qualification programme.

International students are fully integrated into our learning programme, with their own tailored timetable to suit the individual student's abilities and interests. We offer traditional subjects such as English, Maths and Science as well as a wide range of other subjects including languages, arts, design, music, technology, textile fashion, dance and outdoor education.

New Zealand NCEA Education System

We offer the NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) education system, which is the main national qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand. NCEA is recognised by employers, and used for selection by universities and polytechnics, both in New Zealand and overseas.

Through NCEA we are able to offer a multi-level programme, which means international students can study in multiple year levels to suit each student's individual needs and learning levels.

Choosing your subjects

Students at Whangarei Girls' High School choose their courses through SchoolPoint, an online course selection programme to compare all the courses available at our school. Visit the school website www.wghs.school.nz, click on 'Course Selection' in Quick Links and you will be taken to the SchoolPoint landing page. Here you can view the wide array of subjects on offer, as well as information about NCEA and career planning.

ESOL and IELTS

We have a dedicated English as Second Language (ESOL) teacher, which allows students to have up to three English classes per day as required. We also support students studying towards IELTS, with testing held in Whangārei throughout the year.

Planning your career

We work hard to ensure our students leave us well prepared for the next step in their lives. Our dedicated Careers Team offers guidance to students who are wanting to plan ahead and consider their career options, either within New Zealand or beyond.



SPORTS AND CLUBS

Our students have the option to join over 30 sports clubs through our school, providing a valuable opportunity to stay active and make new friends. As well as the school teams listed below, there is also a wide variety of community clubs across the city that welcome international students, such as hip hop dance, gymnastics, martial arts, badminton and karate. In addition, our school clubs offer a wide range of learning and development opportunities in leadership, health, the environment and global issues, as well as providing friendship and fun.

We offer exciting opportunities to experience New Zealand’s beautiful outdoors, with school camps, outdoor education and community events. Locally, students can also enjoy forest walks and swimming and surfing at local beaches, and across New Zealand there are an abundance of adventure sports available, such as bungee jumping, white water rafting and skydiving.



TERM SPORTS

Term 1	Term 3
Volleyball	Volleyball
Beach Volleyball	Badminton
Touch Rugby	Ki-O-Rahi
Rowing	Football
Sailing	Basketball
Tennis	Gymnastics
Cricket	Golf
Netball	Netball
Hockey	Hockey
Equestrian	Rugby
Surfing	Cheerleading
Athletics	Air Pistol Shooting
Waka Ama	Fencing
Orienteering	Clay Target Shooting
Futsal	Adventure Racing
Swimming	Rugby 7's
Triathlon	Squash
Golf	
Cheerleading	
Air Pistol Shooting	
Fencing	Term 4
Adventure Racing	Volleyball
Clay Target Shooting	Beach Volleyball
	Touch Rugby
	Rowing
	Sailing
	Tennis
	Cricket
	Golf
	Cheerleading
	Air Pistol Shooting
	Fencing
	Clay Target Shooting
	Adventure Racing
Term 2	
Table Tennis	
Floorball	
Rugby League	
Football	
Basketball	
Cross Country	
Golf	
Netball	
Hockey	
Equestrian	
Surfing	
Cheerleading	
Air Pistol Shooting	
Fencing	
Clay Target Shooting	
Adventure Racing	



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

We celebrate arts and culture at our school, and strongly encourage our students to share their talents in such areas as drama, dance, singing, music and debating. Regular drama, dance and music performances are held in our purpose built school theatre and the music department also supports a school choir, orchestra and student bands.

While in New Zealand, it is a great opportunity to learn more about Māori culture, which is also an important part of our school life. Students have the opportunity to learn Te Reo (Māori language) and join our Kapa Haka cultural performance group, as well as learning the school song and basic language around the school. Māori culture is strongly celebrated around Northland, with amazing attractions like the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Technology is strongly integrated into all aspects of learning at our school, with students at all year levels using their own devices.

We are proud of our new arts and commerce block, newly refurbished and modernised classrooms and specialist areas including three gymnasiums, astro turf, swimming pool, weights room, commercial kitchen, science laboratories, library and modern technology rooms.



ACCOMMODATION



Our students are warmly welcomed into a safe, friendly and supportive living environment with a local homestay family or boarding at Lupton House.

Student safety is our number one priority, with all host families carefully chosen and interviewed, before being vetted by New Zealand Police. All host families offer a safe, friendly home that is carefully matched to our visiting students, and monitored by our Homestay Manager. Families arrange transport to and from school each day.

Lupton House provides safe and secure boarding within the school grounds, with friendly, caring staff and a safe and welcoming atmosphere. Lupton House is within walking distance to doctors, shopping and sporting facilities, making it easy for boarders to enjoy their independence. Boarding enquiries are welcome, with hostel accommodation available for a minimum of one year.

All homestay and boarding students are well supported, with routines and guidelines to enhance opportunities for educational and social learning and development.

“I had an incredibly lovely homestay and was supported at everything. I learned a lot about the kiwi life and was able to experience a lot.”

Maja - Germany





INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Throughout the year, we offer a wide range of uniquely Kiwi experiences to our international students, including trips around Northland, Auckland and Rotorua, school camps, winter ski trip, dedicated end of year programme and a special regional welcome to Northland.

A range of volunteering opportunities are also available to international students in the community, and this is an excellent way to build up confidence and practice and improve your English. We also take our international students to meet the Mayor of Whangārei.

The end of year programme includes a wide range of activities, both at school and in the community, such as sailing, kayaking, surfing, rockwall climbing, bee keeping and meeting a kiwi. Students also have the option to join a South Island tour in the school holidays, to see more of our beautiful country.



“I was not gonna expect wanting to stay here or getting so close to my host family and my friends. NZ has opened me doors to so many new opportunities and has also been affecting my future in a positive way.**”**

Roxane - Germany





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