



OTAMATEA HIGH SCHOOL

He waka eka noa | We are all in this together

INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS

2026

Nau mai haere mai

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Since 1966, Otamatea High School has been serving the rural communities of Maungaturoto, Kaiwaka, Mangawhai, Waipu, Matakohē and beyond, developing a reputation as a place of academic growth, cultural responsiveness and supportive learning.

As a co-educational state school for Years 7 to 13, we offer a broad curriculum that caters for diverse learners. Our Year 7 and 8 students benefit from homeroom teachers who guide them across several foundational areas, while all students access specialist teaching in subjects including science, technology, te reo Māori, the arts, languages, health and physical education.

We are committed to equipping every student with the skills and experiences they need to be Ready for the World ('Kia mataara ki te Ao'), through strong academic programmes, vocational pathways, and opportunities beyond the classroom.

Community, culture, leadership, sport, and the arts form integral parts of school life. From kapa haka and cultural exchanges to sports, performing arts and leadership opportunities, our students are encouraged to grow as well-rounded young people.

TODD MALCOLM PRINCIPAL

OUR VALUES

At Otamatea High School, we nurture a warm, culturally responsive and restorative environment. Our values are expressed through the WAKA acronym:

W – WHANAUNGATANGA:

Building respectful, whānau-like relationships.

A – AKO:

Embracing reciprocal learning inside and outside the classroom.

K – KAITIAKITANGA:

Taking guardianship of our place, environment, and wellbeing.

A – AROHA:

Focusing the best of ourselves on others with empathy and care.





He waka eke noa - We are all in this together

OUR KAUPAPA SCHOOL VISION

Our vision, Ready for the World – Kia mataara ki te Ao, prepares students for the challenges of a rapidly changing future. Guided by our whakataukī He waka eke noa (“we are all in this together”), we recognise that every part of our school community—students, staff, whānau, and local partners—has a role in supporting our learners.



Otamatea High School



MAUNGATUROTO

Kaipara Harbour
Northland, New Zealand

LOCATION:

- Safe, friendly rural town in Northland, New Zealand.
- 1.5 hours to Auckland City and 1 hour to Whangārei.
- Close to Auckland International Airport for easy travel.

CLIMATE:

- Warm summers, mild winters.
- Perfect for outdoor activities all year round.

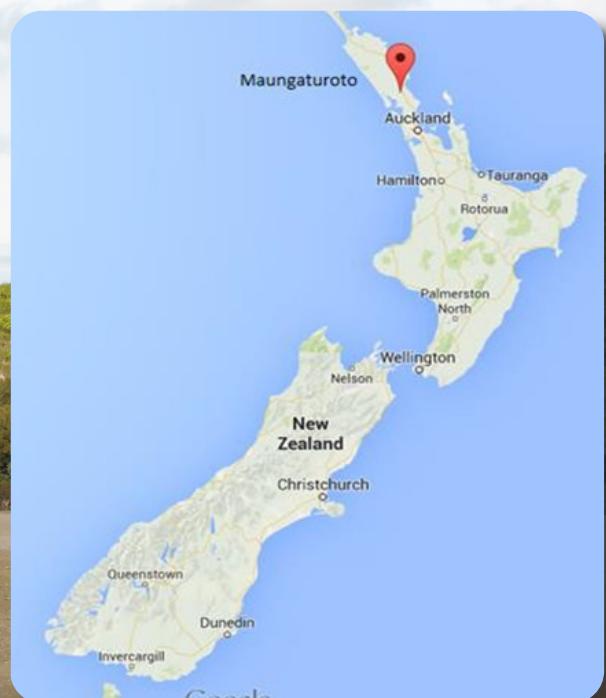
LIFESTYLE:

- Local shops, cafés, sports clubs, and medical services
- Strong community spirit and welcoming atmosphere
- School buses and transport options available

ATTRACTIONS:

- Kaipara Harbour, local surf beaches Mangawhai heads and Waipu cove, Pirau waterfall and bush walks.
- Participation opportunities in farming and horticulture.
- Local Marae and Maori cultural festivals.

Our local Whenua



He waka eke noa | We are all in this together

OUR SCHOOL

Rural Campus Setting and modern facilities

Otamatea High School provides students with excellent facilities that support both learning and recreation in a safe and welcoming environment.

Students enjoy a modern gym, turf, swimming pool, tennis and basketball courts, and two full-sized sports fields, with access to local motocross, squash, and equestrian facilities.

Classrooms are well equipped with science labs, technology workshops, a Food and Hospitality room, specialist art and music spaces, computer labs, and a large library. A school café provides a relaxed space to connect with friends.

Younger learners benefit from a dedicated junior area and playground, while agricultural programmes give students hands-on experience with primary industries. Together, these facilities provide international students with a balanced education across academics, the arts, sport, and outdoor learning.



LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

Otamatea High School offers every student the chance to engage in learning and achieve success.

Students are supported, encouraged, and celebrated for their efforts. We provide multiple pathways including NCEA, Gateway, and vocational options to suit different strengths and goals.

Progress is closely monitored through regular assessment and mentoring: our iwi deans, whānau teachers, and specialist staff work with students and whānau to identify needs, set goals, and track achievement. Completion of schooling here prepares students either for tertiary study or entry into the workforce, armed with the knowledge, resilience, and skills to succeed.



NZ CURRICULUM

New Zealand is recognised internationally for having one of the best education systems in the world. With smaller class sizes and a learning style that fosters independence, critical thinking, and creativity, students are encouraged to achieve their personal best. The New Zealand Curriculum identifies confidence, connectedness, active involvement, and lifelong learning as national priorities for our young people.

At Otamatea High School, we welcome students from the beginning of their secondary journey in Year 7 through to Year 13, when most students are 18 years old. Our curriculum is shaped by the values of the New Zealand Curriculum and consultation with our community, leading to a vision for the Otamatea Learner.

We encourage our students to be.

- **Confident and independent.**
- **Critical and creative thinkers.**
- **Positive in their relationships with others**
- **Skilled in literacy and numeracy.**



JUNIOR SYNDICATE

YEARS 7 - 8

In Years 7 and 8, students at Otamatea High School join our vibrant Junior Syndicate, led by Syndicate Head, Amy Dempsey. Our junior programme provides a strong foundation across the full curriculum, with a particular focus on building excellence in literacy and numeracy.

As part of a high school setting, our younger students benefit from specialist teachers and facilities. They enjoy a wide range of opportunities in the arts and technology, including visual art, music, drama, food technology, digital technology, and hard materials. Students also take part in hands-on science learning in our fully equipped laboratories for two hours each week.

In addition, every student learns Te Reo Māori, alongside the choice of either Spanish or French, reflecting our commitment to cultural understanding and global citizenship.



YEAR 9 - 10

In Years 9 and 10, students at Otamatea High School continue to build a strong foundation through core classes in English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, and Social Studies. Alongside these, they experience the full breadth of the curriculum and begin to personalise their learning by choosing from a wide range of option subjects.

Options include the full suite of technology disciplines (digital, engineering, graphics, food, and hard materials), as well as art, business studies, drama, magazine design, music, Spanish, and Te Reo Māori. This variety allows students to discover and develop their individual strengths and passions.

At Year 10, students also sit the Curriculum Assessment for Achievement (CAA) exams, which provide valuable preparation for NCEA and help track progress against national benchmarks. These assessments ensure our learners are well prepared for the academic challenges of their senior years.



SENIOR STUDENTS

YEARS 11 - 13

Senior students at Otamatea High School study towards NCEA qualifications, with over 60 courses offered across Levels 1, 2 and 3, as well as distance learning opportunities through Te Kura (the Correspondence School).

At Year 11, most students take six Level 1 courses, including compulsory English, Mathematics, Science, and Health & Physical Education, alongside a wide choice of options. Year 12 students continue with English and select the remainder of their courses in line with their future education and training goals, supported by personalised career and academic guidance. By Year 13, students choose five or six subjects, all optional, with advice to ensure their programme best positions them for university entrance, further study, or employment.

In addition to classroom learning, senior students benefit from a range of flexible pathways. Through our Self-Directed Pathways programme, students can work independently on an area of personal

interest while also gaining practical experience through the Gateway programme and other work placements. All students are supported to achieve national qualifications and develop the skills needed for success beyond school.

We offer three specialist academies that combine classroom learning with industry experience, giving students the opportunity to earn national qualifications while completing NCEA. The Primary Industries Academy enables students to work towards a National Certificate in Agriculture or Horticulture, the Hospitality Academy prepares students for a growing industry with the National Certificate in Hospitality, and the Construction and Engineering Academy provides industry-based qualifications and practical skills to support future careers in the trades.

SUBJECT LIST 2026

LEARNING AREAS	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11 NCEA LEVEL 1	YEAR 12 NCEA LEVEL 2	YEAR 13 NCEA LEVEL 3
ENGLISH	• English	• English	• English	• English Academic • English - General	• English Academic • English - General
ESOL	• ESOL	• ESOL	• ESOL	• ESOL	• ESOL
MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS	• Mathematics	• Mathematics	• Mathematics	• Mathematics • Calculus • Statistics	• Mathematics • Calculus • Statistics
SCIENCE	• Science	• Science	• Science - Essential • Science - General	• Physics • Chemistry • Biology	• Physics • Chemistry • Biology
SOCIAL SCIENCE	• Social Studies	• Social Studies	• History • Geography	• History • Geography • Media Studies • Tourism	• History • Geography • Media Studies • Tourism
Commerce	• Business Studies	• Commerce	• Business Economics	• Business Economics	• Business Economics
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH	• Physical Education & Health	• Physical Education & Health	• Physical Education. • Health	• Physical Education. • Health • Sports Leadership	• Physical Education. • Health • Sports Leadership
TECHNOLOGY Food	• Food Technology	• Food Technology	• Hospitality	• Hospitality Academy	• Hospitality Academy
Hard Materials Design and Visual Communication (DVC)	• Hard Materials. • Graphics.	• Hard Materials. • Graphics.	• Building & Construction. • Engineering. • DVC.	• Building & Construction. • Engineering. • DVC.	• Building & Construction. • Engineering. • DVC.
Digital	• Digital Technology	• Digital Technology	• Digital Technology	• Digital Technology	• Digital Technology
CREATIVE ARTS Performing Arts	• Music • Drama	• Music • Drama	• Music • Drama	• Music • Drama	• Music • Drama
Visual Arts	• Visual Art	• Visual Art • Magazine Design	• Visual Art	• Painting • Art Design • Photography	• Painting • Art Design • Photography
LANGUAGES	• Te Reo Maori • Spanish	• Te Reo Maori • Spanish	• Te Reo Maori • Spanish	• Te Reo Maori • Spanish	• Te Reo Maori
AGRICULTURAL STUDIES		• Green to Gold	• Primary Industries Trade Academy.	• Primary Industries Trade Academy.	• Primary Industries Trade Academy.
SELF DRIVEN			• Correspondence	• Pathways • Gateway • Correspondence	• Pathways • Gateway • Correspondence

Bold = Core Subjects that all students take. All other subjects are *Option* subjects.

STUDENT SERVICES



PASTORAL CARE DEANS

At Otamatea High School, the pastoral system is centred on the deans, who are organised both by year level and by iwi.

Year level deans take primary responsibility for the pastoral care of students, ensuring that wellbeing, behaviour, and academic progress are supported appropriately. Alongside them, iwi deans focus on fostering school spirit and connection by leading iwi-based activities and events such as assemblies, competitions, and cultural celebrations.

This dual structure means that students are cared for both as individuals within their year group and as members of a wider iwi community, strengthening belonging, identity, and support across the school

IWI STRUCTURE

- *Whatua*
- *Nga Puhi*
- *Maniapoto*
- *Arawa*



Te Whare o RONGO

Counselling services, Student Support Services.

Te Whare o Rongo (student support house) is the heart of student wellbeing and support.

It is where students sign in and out during the school day and where many pastoral routines are managed. The centre also provides access to counselling and medical services, offering confidential care and guidance to ensure students feel supported both academically and personally. In addition, Te Whare o Rongo is a hub for leadership and community, hosting meetings such as Prefect gatherings and PTCA events. As both a practical and pastoral space, Te Whare o Rongo reflects our commitment to caring for the whole student in a safe and inclusive environment.



THE HUB

Sports, Extracurricular and Careers advisors.

The Hub is a central space where students are supported in planning for their future and getting involved in school life.

It houses our Careers and Gateways office, offering personalised guidance with subject choices, tertiary study options, apprenticeships, and workplace pathways. University and polytechnic prospectuses are available, and staff coordinate opportunities such as the Careers Expo and Year 10 Work Experience.

The Hub is also the home of our Sports Coordinator team and is the place where students sign up for sports teams and extracurricular activities, making it a lively centre of student engagement.



INTERNATIONAL

International Liason. ESOL.

We welcome international and exchange students as valued members of our school community. The school is a signatory to the Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016, ensuring that all aspects of their welfare—including accommodation, health, guidance, and cultural support—are carefully managed.

International students have access to ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, tailored to help them strengthen their English skills and confidently engage in all areas of school life. They are also encouraged to take part in sports, cultural groups, and extracurricular activities, building friendships and connections across the school. With a strong network of pastoral care, including homestay support and guidance from dedicated staff, international students at Otamatea High School can thrive in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment.



SPORTS

EXTRACURRICULAR

A wide range of rewarding and challenging sporting opportunities are available to all students at Otamatea High School, whether they are competitive athletes or simply keen to give something new a try.

Students can choose from a variety of summer and winter sports, taking part in weekly interschool competitions as well as special fixtures such as our annual sports exchanges with other schools. Highlights of the sporting calendar also include New Zealand Secondary Schools Tournament Week, the AIMS competition and the Netball UNISS competition, where our top teams compete on a national stage.



SPORTS ON OFFER

Athletics • Badminton • Basketball • Clay Target Shooting • Cricket • Cross Country • Cycling • Equestrian • Futsal • Get2Go • Hockey • Inter Iwi Sports • Mountain Biking • Motocross • Netball • Orienteering • Table Tennis • Rowing • Rippa Rugby • Rugby • Soccer • Surfing • Swimming • Squash • Tennis • Touch/ Turbo Touch • Triathlon / Multi-Sport • Volleyball • Paddleboarding • School Swimming • Volleyball

CULTURE

EXTRACURRICULAR

We provide students with a wide range of cultural opportunities that encourage creativity, leadership, and pride in identity.

Our vibrant Kapa Haka group is a cornerstone of school life, performing at regional events and representing the school with passion and mana. Students also take part in our annual Toi Māori Festival, celebrating Māori art, waiata, haka, and visual culture alongside neighbouring schools.

Within the inter-iwi system, cultural competitions such as haka and waiata build school spirit and foster strong connections to te ao Māori. These opportunities ensure that every student has the chance to engage meaningfully in cultural expression, developing both confidence and a deeper understanding of heritage and community.



ARTS

PERFORMING, & VISUAL ART

Otamatea High School has a proud tradition of excellence in the Arts, offering students opportunities to explore and develop their talents across music, drama, and visual art.

Students can take these subjects in their academic curriculum as option subjects, taught by specialist teachers. They can also pursue these as extracurricular activities.

In music, are supported by a team of classroom and itinerant teachers who provide specialist tuition in a wide range of instruments and singing. Our young musicians showcase their talents through fundraising concerts for charity, the national Rockquest competition, as well as the annual Olla Podriga talent quest, which highlights performances from classical to contemporary music, including bands, soloists, and instrumentalists.

Drama students bring their creativity to life through school productions and performance evenings, while our visual art programmes provide pathways for success in design, painting, and photography, often to the highest NCEA and scholarship levels.



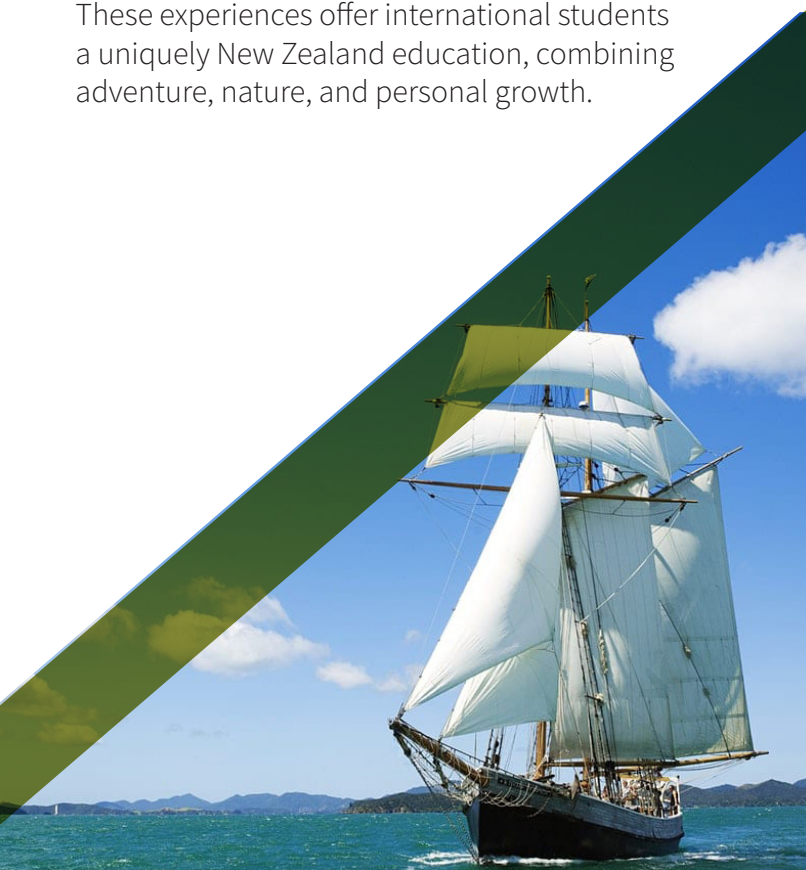
EXTRACURRICULAR GROUPS

We provide students with unforgettable opportunities to explore the outdoors and challenge themselves through adventure.

The internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award takes students all over New Zealand, from tramping through national parks and camping in remote backcountry to climbing some of our most iconic landscapes such as the mountains of Tongariro and the summit of Mt Ruapehu. Along the way, they develop independence, resilience, and a deep appreciation for Aotearoa's natural beauty.

Junior students can take part in the William Pike Challenge, which combines outdoor pursuits, community service, and personal passion projects to foster teamwork and leadership.

A highlight for many is sailing on the R. Tucker Thompson, a traditional tall ship based in the Bay of Islands, where students work together as crew, learning seamanship and leadership while experiencing the stunning Northland coastline. These experiences offer international students a uniquely New Zealand education, combining adventure, nature, and personal growth.





INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Since the 1980s, we have welcomed international students from around the world into our vibrant school community. We are proud to offer high-quality academic programmes, excellent support systems, and a wide range of opportunities in and beyond the classroom. Many students choose to stay long-term and complete their secondary education with us.

THE EDUCATION CODE OF PRACTICE

When students from other countries come to study in New Zealand, it is important that those students are well informed, safe and properly cared for.

New Zealand educational providers have an important responsibility for International Students' welfare. The Code of Practice is a document providing a framework for service delivery by educational providers and their agents to International Students. The Code sets out the minimum standards of advice and care that are expected of educational providers with respect to International Students. The Code applies to pastoral care and provision of information only, and not to academic standards.

The Code applies to all education providers in New Zealand with international students enrolled.

The Code is mandatory to these providers and must be signed by them. The Code is available online from NZQA. If students are unable to resolve a complaint with their provider, NZQA has a Disputes Resolution Scheme to help students resolve their concerns.

The Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga (ERO) is the New Zealand government's external education evaluation agency. They evaluate and report on the education and care of learners in educational providers in New Zealand.

You can view our latest ERO report here:
<https://www.ero.govt.nz/institution/21/otamatea-high-school>

ACCOMODATION OPTIONS

We understand that feeling safe and supported is an essential part of studying abroad. Otamatea High School offers several accommodation choices:

LIVING WITH PARENTS

Students living in New Zealand with their parents may seek rental accommodation with assistance from local real estate agencies such as The Professionals or Ray White. For short-term options, Booking.com or Airbnb.com may be useful.

DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

Students may live with a Designated Caregiver (a relative or close family friend). Both the caregiver and parents must sign a Designated Caregiver Agreement, which is available on our website or from the school office during the enrolment process.

HOMESTAY

Many international students choose to live with one of our carefully selected and safety-checked homestay families. Homestays offer a warm and welcoming environment where students can experience New Zealand life, practice English, and feel part of a family. The Accommodation Agreement form is required and available on our website or by request from the school office.

COST OF LIVING IN NZ

New Zealand offers a high standard of living. Students should budget for expenses such as food, transport, clothing, entertainment, and personal items, in addition to tuition and accommodation. Families can expect clear guidance and support from Otamatea High School when planning for study abroad. For a detailed breakdown, visit naumainz.studywithnewzealand.govt.nz

VISA REQUIREMENTS

International students must hold a valid student visa issued by Immigration New Zealand before beginning their studies. Visa applications generally require: An offer of place from Otamatea High School, evidence of sufficient funds to cover tuition and living costs, proof of approved medical and travel insurance and details of accommodation arrangements in New Zealand. Full information and application guidelines are available at Immigration New Zealand

SUPPORT AND WELLBEING

- Medical and Travel Insurance is compulsory for all international students.
- Strong pastoral care systems ensure students feel safe, supported, and connected.
- A clear grievance procedure is in place to protect students' wellbeing and rights. Students and parents may experience problems and difficulties in adjusting to life in New Zealand. <https://otamatea.schooldocs.co.nz/ConcernsandComplaintsProcess.pdf>
If you think the school has breached the Code, or you are not happy with the way we have resolved your concerns, you can make a complaint to NZQA.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please contact the school and an application form will be sent out to you.

The completed application form needs to include the following: a photocopy of the student's passport, a copy of the student's birth certificate, copies of school reports, references, and certificates from their current school. Students need to supply evidence of all prior learning in its original non-translated format. The school will contact you once the applications form has been completed.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

You can find more information on our website: <https://www.otamatea.school.nz/>

2026 FEES

INFORMATION

The tuition fee covers normal school tuition, textbooks, (on loan), and orientation programme. The Board of Trustees reviews all fees annually.

TUITION	FEE (NZD)
Full Year (4 Terms)	\$16000
3 Terms	\$12000
2 Terms	\$9000
1 Term	\$4500
ADMINISTRATION	FEE (NZD)
Full Year (4 Terms)	\$1000
3 Terms	\$1000
2 Terms	\$600
Less than 2 Terms	\$600

HOMESTAY	FEE (NZD)
Homestay Placement Fee	\$400
Homestay Per Week	\$400
AIRPORT	FEE (NZD)
Airport Pickup	\$200 one way
CONTINGENCY FUND	FEE (NZD)
<i>Students can use this fund to pay for school trips, camps, uniforms, and in school or extra-curricular sports such as hockey, soccer. Any money remaining in the students' account will be refunded back to the parents at the end of the course.</i>	\$1000

REFUND POLICY

If the student withdraws from his/her course of study before the course completion date, the school's refund policy will apply. In such cases, the parents should write to the principal explaining the circumstances. Our refund policy can be viewed on the international section of our website.

FEES PROTECTION POLICY

- The Board of Trustees guarantees that accounting procedures are in place to ensure that monies are available for release.
- International Students' fees shall be paid into the school's general account and drawn down at intervals of one term in arrears throughout the academic year.
- These monies will be available for approved refunds resulting from withdrawal from the College or in the event of the College not being able to provide tuition.

EXTRA COSTS NOT COVERED ARE:

- Uniform costs – See uniform information sheet (approx. \$350).
- Stationery includes subject workbooks (allow \$200)
- School field trips, and camps (for some subjects).
- Entry fees to external examinations and awards.
- NCEA entry fee – \$383.30 per candidate. This fee is for year 11, 12 & 13 students only.
- Competitions: Students will have the opportunity to enter national competitions. Typically, these are in Mathematics, Science, English & Chemistry.
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities; sports, culture, and clubs.
- Personal spending money.

2026 SCHOOL DATES



SCHOOL UNIFORM

You can find more information about the school uniform on our website:

<https://www.otamatea.school.nz/>

TERM 1

Wed 28 Jan	FIRST DAY TERM 1 Year 13 and all new students
Thurs 29 Jan	WHOLE SCHOOL
Fri 6 Feb	Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
	Swimming Sports
	School Senior Athletics
	ID / Class Photos
	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
	Easter Tuesday (Public Holiday)
	LAST DAY OF TERM 1

TERM 2

Mon 20 April	FIRST DAY OF TERM 2
1st June	Kings Birthday (Public Holiday)
Fri 10 July	Matariki (Public Holiday)
Fri 3 July	LAST DAY TERM 2

TERM 3

Mon 20 July	FIRST DAY TERM 3
Fri 25 Sept	LAST DAY TERM 3

TERM 4

Mon 12 Oct	FIRST DAY TERM 4
Mon 26 Oct	Labour day (Public Holiday)
Wed 10 Dec	LAST DAY TERM 4 Junior Prize Giving.

CONTACT US

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*School Office Hours
8.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday*



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