



Wakatipu  
HIGH SCHOOL

2023 INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS

WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL

# QUEENSTOWN

NEW ZEALAND



[international.wakatipu.school.nz](https://international.wakatipu.school.nz)





**Wakatipu**  
HIGH SCHOOL

## PROSPECTUS 2023

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## KIA ORA

Welcome

**WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL'S VISION IS TO 'DELIVER AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND'S BEST ALL-ROUND EDUCATION'. THIS ASPIRATIONAL VISION CHALLENGES US TO STRIVE TO DELIVER THE BEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS EACH AND EVERY DAY.**

Our 'Ākonga (Graduate) Profile' outlines what we want for our students in their time at Wakatipu High Schol, and encapsulates the all-round nature of our vision.

The Ākonga Profile (see Curriculum) includes not only every student gaining their best possible qualification, but essential competencies and knowledge, and holistic development as a young person - underpinned by our school values of excellence, responsibility, resilience, inclusion and respect.

Integral to our vision is student learning, progress and achievement, and our strong academic results are testament to our success in this area. Students are also supported to achieve in vocational pathways, and we provide learning support in literacy and numeracy and have a Gifted Education programme.

A key part of our all-round education is the wide range of extra and co-curricular opportunities that we offer, including sport, arts, music, culture, outdoors, community and leadership. From our Winter Sports Academy and rowing, to our jazz band, school musical, Kapa Haka group and Duke of Edinburgh programme, our students have an incredible range of opportunities in which to participate and excel, as well as to grow and develop as young people.

Furthermore, the Wakatipu Basin and its unique environment enables us to offer our great outdoor education programmes. Our recent Education

Review Office (ERO) report noted that international students 'are actively encouraged and supported to take part in these activities alongside their peers'.

Student engagement and wellbeing are also very important at WHS, and we work hard to support our students to 'feel good and function well' and enjoy coming to school. We have a comprehensive pastoral system, central to which are our five Houses. As above, our ERO report noted that 'particular care' is taken of international students in this area.

In terms of our campus, WHS is blessed with a new and recently expanded campus providing us with great teaching and learning spaces and considerable capacity.

Wakatipu High School offers a wonderful educational experience for international students, with a great all-round education in a stunning and safe environment. We welcome you to join us at our remarkable campus in Queenstown, New Zealand to 'reach for your heights'.

**STEVE HALL**  
PRINCIPAL



EXCELLENCE



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE

**AD ALTA**  
**REACH FOR YOUR HEIGHTS**  
**KĀ MAUKA WHAKATIPU**



**OUR VISION  
IS TO DELIVER  
AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND'S  
BEST ALL-ROUND  
EDUCATION**





## LIVE AND LEARN IN QUEENSTOWN

**OUR GOAL IS TO DEVELOP STUDENTS HOLISTICALLY. THIS INVOLVES PARTICIPATING IN OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY AND LEARNING TO RESPECT OUR SPECTACULAR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

Situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown is a world class destination. It is a vibrant and safe community with a reputation for being culturally inclusive. The region has developed into a globally renowned tourist location which is now also recognised as a serious study destination.

Our natural landscape offers an inspiring backdrop and gives Queenstown students access to New Zealand's best all-round education experience.

The district has a rich sense of culture ranging from a respectful focus on Māori heritage through to visiting film-makers, artists and musicians.

The Queenstown community attracts residents from all over the world who want to make this piece of paradise their home. With a culturally rich population, Queenstown education providers have access to teachers and staff who offer a diverse set of capabilities and experiences for students to learn from.

The natural and cultural environment that we live in is truly unique and the teaching and learning at Wakatipu High School reflects and embraces the special character of our slice of New Zealand.



QUEENSTOWN IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND.

THERE ARE DIRECT INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM SYDNEY, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE AND THE GOLD COAST. LONG HAUL CONNECTIONS CAN EASILY BE MADE THROUGH AUCKLAND AND CHRISTCHURCH.

QUEENSTOWN  
THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST PLACES  
OF 2022  
TIME MAGAZINE



✈  
**APPROX FLIGHT TIMES  
TO QUEENSTOWN**

**2** AUCKLAND  
HRS

**3** AUSTRALIA  
HRS

**12** ASIA  
HRS

**13** USA  
HRS

**13** SOUTH AMERICA  
HRS

**25** EUROPE  
HRS



# WHY STUDY AT WHS



## ENDORSED BY THE NZ GOVERNMENT'S EXTERNAL EVALUATION AGENCY

The strength of our international student programme is recognised in our recent Education Review Office (ERO) report.



## WELL SUPPORTED FROM DAY ONE

Our pastoral network involves the entire staff working in a safe and caring environment, ensuring students achieve their potential with a strong sense of wellbeing.



## MODERN FACILITIES WITH GREAT TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES

A newly completed campus built with state of the art facilities and flexible learning spaces.



## GREAT ALL-ROUND EDUCATION MAKING THE MOST OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



## SITUATED IN QUEENSTOWN, A WORLD CLASS DESTINATION



## COMMUNITY OF EXPERIENCED HOMESTAY FAMILIES WITH EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY



**SINCE MY VERY FIRST DAY, I HAVE ALWAYS FELT WELCOMED  
AND INCLUDED IN A MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT  
ENCOURAGES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR  
POTENTIALS AND REACH FOR THEIR HEIGHTS. AD ALTA WAKATIPU!**

JUNE, VIETNAM (18 YEARS)



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**WHS PRIORITISES STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, LEARNING, PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT, WHICH CONSISTENTLY YIELDS EXCELLENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS.**

We encourage and support our students to achieve their best possible qualification, and our NCEA Level 2 and University Entrance (UE) results over the past few years have placed us near the top of all co-educational schools in New Zealand.

Our teachers focus on great teaching and learning, including differentiated instruction, and also have a focus on 'high performance', which includes Merit and Excellence endorsements and Scholarships. We also have rigorous systems for monitoring and supporting students to achieve to their heights.

## 2021 RESULTS



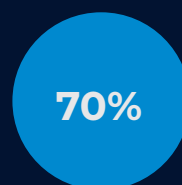
### ACHIEVED NCEA LEVEL 1

The national average was 69% and the average for the Otago region was 83%



### ACHIEVED NCEA LEVEL 2

The national average was 78% and the Otago region was 86%



### ACHIEVED UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

The national average was 52% and the Otago region was 63%

## HIGH PERFORMANCE



### ACHIEVED MERIT AND EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS AT LEVEL 1

The national average was 53% and the average for the Otago region was 54%



### ACHIEVED MERIT AND EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS AT LEVEL 2

The national average was 42% and the average for the Otago region was 42%



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Top 5 in the South Island and #2 in Otago for State Co-ed schools.

A group of students in school uniforms are walking outdoors in front of a modern building with large glass windows. The students are wearing dark blue blazers with a crest, white shirts, and yellow and black striped ties. The boys are wearing dark shorts, while the girls are wearing a blue and white plaid skirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The word "CURRICULUM" is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

# CURRICULUM

# ĀKONGA PROFILE



Central to our vision of delivering Aotearoa New Zealand's best all-round education is our Ākonga Profile. The Ākonga (Learner) Profile outlines the areas in which we want our students to learn, develop and grow during their time at WHS. The profile is very holistic and has four key areas:

1. Values - excellence, respect, responsibility, resilience and inclusion are at the centre of the profile.
2. Future-focused qualifications, transitions and pathway - including the best possible qualification for each student.
3. Capabilities for lifelong learning - including competency development and key knowledge, skills and processes.
4. Holistic development - including self, social and active citizenship.

Students in Year 9 experience the eight learning areas of the New Zealand curriculum and choose subjects which allow them to explore their interests while building the foundation for success in the senior school. As students move through the school they become more specialised in their chosen subjects and pathway; with our broad range of subject choice for both seniors and juniors designed to meet students' various interests and needs.

As per the Ākonga Profile, our students also learn and develop through our broader school-wide curriculum. An extensive extra and co-curricular programme, including sports, arts, cultural, outdoor education, community and leadership, as well as our vibrant House competition all provide important opportunities for our students to learn, grow and develop holistically.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

OUR TEAM OF TALENTED, PASSIONATE AND EXPERIENCED STAFF ARE DEDICATED TO ENSURING THERE IS GREAT TEACHING AND LEARNING AT WHS, INCLUDING MAKING THE MOST OF OUR INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING MODEL

Our teaching and learning model outlines the guiding principles for high quality teaching and learning which are underpinned by research on what matters most for our students and their learning. These include:

- > **Whakawhanaungatanga** - creating a class climate and culture conducive to learning;
- > **Wānanga** - growing great learners who love to learn and learn to learn;
- > **Kaitiakitanga** - high quality teaching for equity and excellence.

The school supports staff to engage in ongoing and up-to-date professional learning to ensure students receive world-class learning experiences.

## INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WHS's Innovative Learning Environment (ILE) provides open, flexible learning spaces, which paired with technology, enable teachers to choose from a variety of pedagogical approaches to enhance teaching and learning. They support students to develop future-focused skills and competencies for lifelong learning, while engaging in a knowledge-rich curriculum.

The flexibility of our ILE enables teachers to deliver personalised learning, better meeting the needs of individual students. Personalised learning is supported through leveraging digital technology, with students bringing their own devices to school (BYOD) and using them as tools for learning.

## TIMETABLE AND AKO TIME

Our timetable is founded on the belief that student choice is key to engagement, which supports learning, progress and achievement.

Students in the junior school (Years 9 and 10) select 12 classes per year - with six courses running in Semester one (Terms 1 and 2) and six in Semester two (Terms 3 and 4). Senior students (Years 11-13) select up to six classes per year - with each course running the whole year.

Time for each class totals seven and a half hours over a two-week period with three 60 and three 90 minute periods over that period.

Ako time is an opportunity for students to meet with their Kaiārahi (learning advisors) for academic guidance and support. Ako time also provides students with some time to work independently.



## LEARNING SUPPORT

Our student learning support team consists of specialist teachers and coordinators to support students. We offer support for:

- > **Literacy and numeracy**
- > **English for second language learners**
- > **Special assessment conditions**
- > **Special education needs**
- > **Gifted learners**
- > **Distance learning**



## COURSE OPTIONS

In selecting course options and deciding on course of study, students need to consider and balance their interests, passions and strengths with their potential future and pathway while keeping their options open.

Junior students study twelve options per year. In Year 9, they take a full-year of English, Mathematics and Social Science, and compulsory half-year courses in Health & Physical Education and Science. They can then choose an option each from Arts, Languages, Technology and one other Learning Area.

In Year 10, they take a full-year of English, Mathematics and Science, and compulsory half-year options in Health & Physical Education and Social Science. They can then choose four more options to suit their pathway and passions.

In the senior school students study six full year subjects towards their NCEA qualification. In Year 11 this includes English and Mathematics.

We offer a broad range of subjects with specialist teachers taught in specialist spaces. We also have options for students to study by distance learning and personalised courses to pursue areas of interest. Browse our subjects and find out more about our course options at [wakatipu.schoolpoint.co.nz](http://wakatipu.schoolpoint.co.nz)

### ENGLISH

- > English
- > Media Studies

### ARTS

- > Music
- > Design
- > Painting
- > Photography
- > Performing Arts
- > Dance
- > Drama

### HEALTH & PE

- > Health Education
- > Physical Education
- > Outdoor Education

### LANGUAGES

- > French
- > Japanese
- > Te Reo Māori
- > Spanish
- > Other languages by correspondence

### MATHEMATICS

- > Mathematics
- > Calculus
- > Statistics

### SCIENCE

- > Biology
- > Chemistry
- > Physics
- > Earth and Space Science

### SOCIAL SCIENCE

- > Social sciences
- > Economics
- > Business Studies
- > Geography
- > History
- > Tourism

### TECHNOLOGY

- > Digital Technology
- > Food Technology
- > Hard Technology
- > Design and Visual Communications
- > Automotive



## PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

We offer the National Certificate of Educational Achievement, the main qualification for secondary students in New Zealand. NCEA comes in three levels: Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 which students usually work through from Years 11 to 13.

NCEA is well recognised by employers, and used for selection by universities and polytechnics, in New Zealand and overseas.

Students can enter for the more academic Achievement Standards and/or Unit Standards which assess a more vocational based skill.

Students are assisted each week in their Ako time to plan pathways and achieve their goals. Their Kaiārahi regularly checks that they are meeting these objectives.

Our Careers team meets with senior students to discuss their goals and explore tertiary and job opportunities available for them.

In Year 13 students visit selected New Zealand universities for Open Days to enable them to make informed choices.



## REPORTING

Our Learning Engagement (LE) Reports are issued digitally every three weeks to parents and students. LE reports provide an overview of a student's engagement and effort in classwork, homework, organisation and behaviour for every class.

We also use the online Portal to provide parents and students with real-time feedback and feed-forward (next steps) on learning, progress and achievement.

Senior students and parents receive regular information in each of their classes as to how students are tracking towards their NCEA Qualification and the academic goals they have set for themselves.

Furthermore, Kaiārahi provide mid-year and end-of-year comments summarising students' academic achievement, engagement indicators, extra and co curricular involvement as well as an overall summary in relation to student citizenship.



“

**LIVING IN QUEENSTOWN AND STUDYING AT WAKATIPU H  
A CLEAR PATHWAY TO MY TERTIARY GOALS AND PREPAR  
SUCCESSFUL CAREER. I HAVE HAD GREAT SUPPORT AND  
ABOUT MY FUTURE.**

# EXTRACURRICULAR

A photograph of three young women in traditional Indigenous attire. They are wearing headbands with yellow, blue, and black geometric patterns and feather headpieces. They have black body paint on their faces and are wearing matching patterned tops. The background is a blurred natural setting.

HAS ESTABLISHED  
RED ME FOR A  
D FEEL CONFIDENT

CHAO HAN,  
GUANGZHOU, CHINA



WHS WON 18 REGIONAL TITLES LAST YEAR

## SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION

**WE HAVE A WELL-RESOURCED SPORTS PROGRAMME THAT PROVIDES ALL STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, DEVELOP, PERFORM AND EXCEL IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD.**

The school prides itself on a high participation rate and an inclusive approach that enables students to grow holistically, connect with others, enhance wellbeing and have fun.

At WHS we promote and enable student participation, development and performance pathways with over 35 sports and active recreation opportunities on offer at or through the school.

A number of sports are delivered at school, while others are offered in conjunction with local clubs.

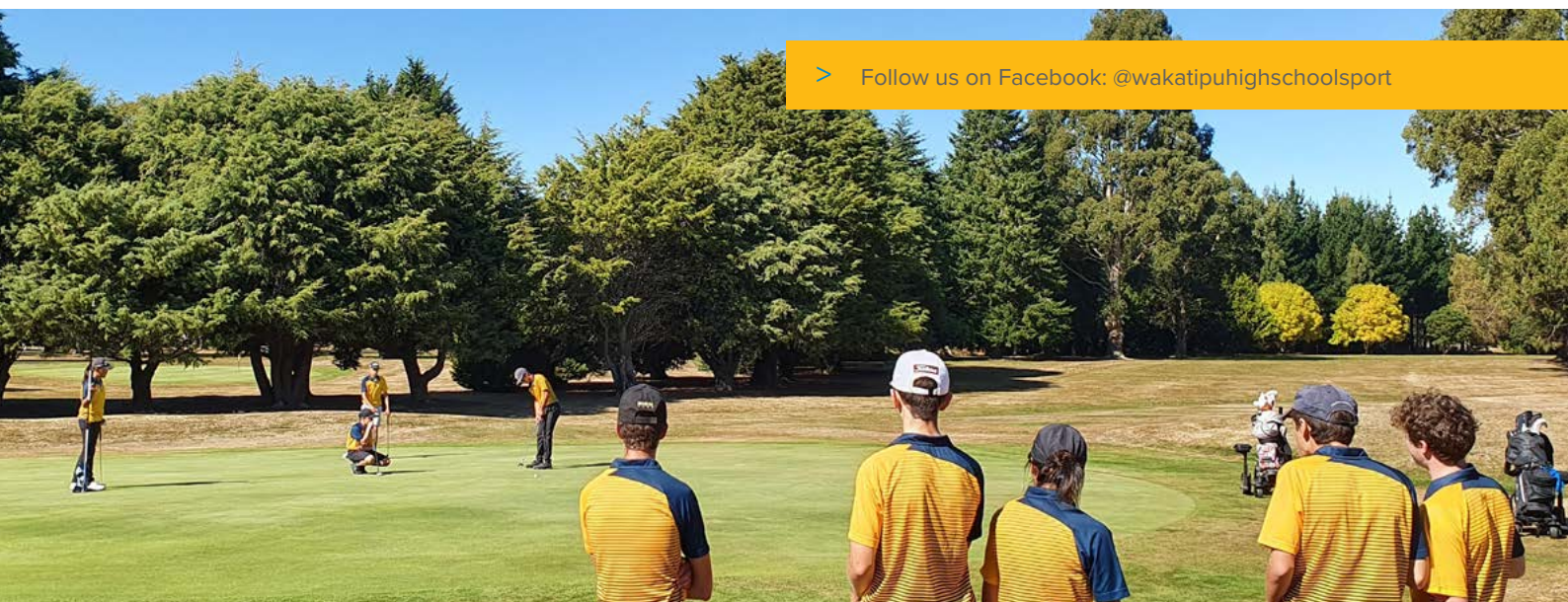
Our students compete in a range of competitions and tournaments locally, regionally and nationally and our unique location creates opportunities to compete against a number of touring national and international schools.

Each year we have winter sports exchanges with James Hargest High School and Mount Aspiring College.

Over the years we have had multiple athletes succeed on the national and international stage in a variety of sports, including at the Youth Winter Olympics and World Cup Snowsports events. These student athletes are well supported by our staff to pursue their sporting ambitions and manage their academic demands successfully.

Sporting excellence at WHS is widely celebrated in the annual summer and winter sports assemblies and at our prestigious Sports Blues Awards night.

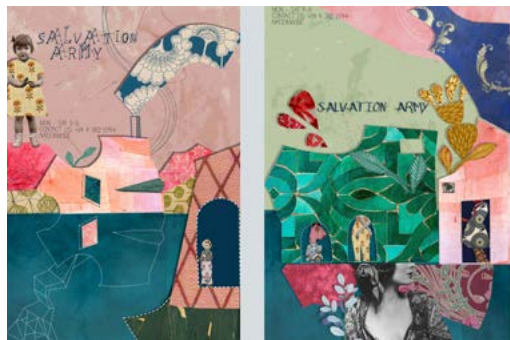
> Find out more at [sporty.co.nz/wakatipu](https://sporty.co.nz/wakatipu)



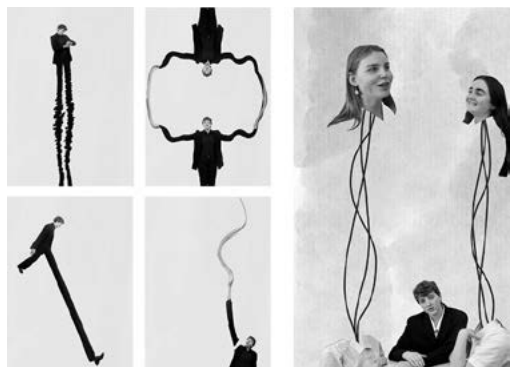
> Follow us on Facebook: [@wakatipuhighschoolsport](https://www.facebook.com/wakatipuhighschoolsport)



Footloose musical showcase at Whakatipu Music Festival



Marigold Kunath, scholarship in design



Elke Koehn, scholarship in photography

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**WE OFFER AN EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAMME THROUGH OUR VISUAL ARTS, MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA DEPARTMENTS, ALONG WITH A VAST RANGE OF CURRICULAR, EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES.**

Participation and excellence in all areas of the Arts is encouraged with subjects offered from Year 9 through to Year 13. We support our teaching programmes with visiting artist/performer workshops and involvement in community events wherever possible.

### MUSIC

Our students participate and achieve in a range of activities that include jazz bands, rock bands, musical theatre and song writing competitions. We have gained national awards in songwriting, competed in the finals of the Rockquest competition and gained gold gradings at the annual Blenheim Jazz competition. There is involvement for our musicians in local events such as the Queenstown Winter Festival, 'Big Break', and 'Central Soundwaves'.

Students are also encouraged to organise their own gigs in and around town and we also run Band Hub which supports Year 9 students transition into high school. Students who are enrolled in Music classes are offered itinerant music lessons which run during school hours.

### VISUAL ARTS

Our extensive Visual Arts department offers students courses in Painting, Design and Photography, and their folio work is exhibited throughout the year in local exhibitions such as 'Showing Off'

and 'Emerging Creatives', showcasing an extremely high standard of work. We celebrate the achievements of our senior students in consistently gaining Scholarship results in Photography, Painting and Design.

### DRAMA AND PERFORMING ARTS TECHNOLOGIES

Drama has considerable involvement in a range of activities including the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition and One Act Play festival where they have achieved highly in recent years. At Years 11, 12 and 13, Drama students produce and perform high-quality dramatic pieces to small live audiences. Every year, we produce a successful school Musical involving a number of students from all levels of the school covering a range of areas in the Performing Arts. The Senior Performing Arts classes are involved with local theatre group productions and they also work with local event production companies.

### DANCE

Our Dance department competes in Showquest and other local events. Dance groups such as The Royal New Zealand Ballet and Footnote have run workshops at the school.

This is a vibrant, growing area of our department with the opportunity for Dance at NCEA as numbers grow.

> Follow us on Instagram: [@wakatipuvisualartdept](https://www.instagram.com/wakatipuvisualartdept)



## OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW HOLISTICALLY, INCLUDING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING NEW SKILLS AND HAVING FUN IN THE OUTDOORS.**

WHS has a junior Outdoor Education programme based in our wonderful region. Year 9 students participate in a river-based Outdoor Education camp at Greenstone Station early in Term 1, and at the end of Term 3 we have our 'Journeys' programme where students choose from a range of experiences including tramping, mountain biking, kayaking and horse trekking and then 'journey' around the Wakatipu for two days and a night.

The Year 10 Branches Camp is considered to be a "rite of passage" for students going into the senior school. It has been running for over 50 years and takes place at the end of Term 4. Based at Branches Station, at the head of the

Shotover River, students participate in outdoor activities including the legendary Lochnagar tramp, rafting and search and rescue.

We also offer an awesome outdoor recreation course for senior students, making the most of the surrounding environment of the Wakatipu. Year 12 and 13 students gain experience and credits in kayaking, tramping, bushcraft, mountain expeditions, snow caving and safety management. Highlights include tramping up the Rockburn Valley, kayaking the Clutha River and mountain expeditions on the Remarkables.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Providing opportunities for and developing student leadership is very important at WHS. Student Executive positions are Head and Deputy Head Boy and Girl as well as Lead Prefects who chair various student council groups, composed of students from all year levels.

In addition to the Student Executive, House Leaders and Deputy House Leaders lead the Houses in a series of competitive House events throughout the year. In addition House Leaders are responsible for organising and leading students, developing house spirit and leading with House assemblies.

## STUDENT COUNCILS

- > Academic
- > Arts & Culture
- > Community and Service
- > Environmental
- > International
- > Junior
- > Māori
- > Sports
- > STARS (Peer Support)
- > Support (Whanaungatanga)
- > Wellbeing

## PEER MENTORS

Year 12 and 13 students can apply to take part in our STARS mentorship programme and assist new entrant students with a successful transition to high school.

STARS is a national programme operated by the Graeme Dingle Foundation.



Participation Day

## HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Our inter-House competitions are a vibrant part of our school culture and an important feature of the school calendar. They give our students a sense of belonging and provide an opportunity for social interactions and a bit of friendly competition throughout the year.

The Student Councils are responsible for organising these events which kicks off with Participation Day early in the year and includes a range of activities from the arts, sports, cultural and academic areas of the school such as our haka/waiata 'Matatū' competition, debating, sports and much more.



## WHS WINTER SPORTS ACADEMY

For over a decade the WHS Winter Sports Academy has been an important programme enabling aspiring young athletes to pursue sporting and academic excellence. Participants in the Academy's programme train in their chosen alpine, free skiing or snowboarding disciplines with expert coaching at one of the local mountains.

This high performance academy allows for a flexible academic schedule to

allow students to reach their maximum athletic potential while pursuing their academic goals.

Some of our top snowsports athletes have gone on to represent New Zealand at the highest level including former students Tiarn Collins, Cool Wakushima and Alice Robinson (world cup winner, Junior World Champion) who competed at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.



## RECOGNISING STUDENT SUCCESS

### ASSEMBLIES AND PRIZEGIVINGS

We hold whole school, year level and House assemblies and prizegivings throughout the year to celebrate the hard work and effort of our students both for their academic achievements and all-round success.

Our annual Cultural Blues and Sports Blues Award evenings are important events at WHS to celebrate excellence,

achievement, service and leadership across all areas of the Arts and Sports.

Our end of year prizegivings are our most prestigious events to honour our top scholars with special prizes and scholarships. The highest of which is the Dux award (top scholar) and the Proxime Accessit (runner up to the Dux).



### EXCELLENCE/AD ALTA AWARDS

Excellence awards acknowledge student's achievements in NCEA. They are awarded to students who have achieved more than 50% of their internally assessed credits to the Excellence level. Achieving this award requires a commitment to learning and achievement to the highest level.

An Ad Alta Award recognises exemplary effort in the areas of homework, class work, organisation and behaviour, and is calculated from the Learning Engagement (LE Reports) of senior students.

Students can achieve a bronze, blue and gold badge throughout the year. Achievement at these levels are celebrated during the year at our Excellence/Ad Alta/Ākonga passport Assemblies.

### ĀKONGA PASSPORT

The Ākonga Passport Award recognises students in Years 9 and 10 who strive to fulfil our vision of a great all-round student.

In alignment with our Ākonga Profile, students are awarded points for

- > exemplifying the school values,
- > being engaged in their learning in the classroom,
- > participating in extra and co curricular activities,
- > completing service for the school and/or community and
- > completing school-wide programmes such as Digital Literacy and Careers Exploration.

Once they achieve a certain number of points, they get a Bronze award, followed by a Silver and then Gold Ākonga Passport award.

### STUDENT BADGES

Our student badge scheme recognises participation and achievement in our great all-round education. Students are encouraged to try new things and "reach for their heights".

We award badges for participation and excellence in

- > Academics
- > Leadership
- > Service
- > Sport
- > Culture
- > Extracurricular Activities

We encourage students to build on their badges through their time at WHS to foster a sense of pride.

# WELLBEING & SUPPORT





# WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

**ALL STUDENTS WHO ATTEND WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR FULL ACADEMIC, PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL IN A POSITIVE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT. WE PLACE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON THE HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING OF OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.**

Our pastoral support team and Ako time structure alongside our schoolwide wellbeing plan is central to us supporting students here at school.

## WELLBEING PLAN

Through our schoolwide wellbeing plan we focus on the concept of positive education. We teach specific skills that assist staff and students to build up their kete (basket) of resources in order to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, adopt a strengths-based approach, enhance personal resilience, promote a growth mind-set and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Ultimately we aim for students and staff to have an understanding of wellbeing, to be able to use our wellbeing model to make positive changes, and to regularly check in with their wellbeing including getting support if needed.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

Central to pastoral care at WHS is our House system. We have five Houses, each with a different colour, whose names come from early settlers in the Wakatipu Basin: Arthur, Duncan, Fox, Hay and Mackenzie. The Houses create a sense of whānau (family), where all students feel a sense of belonging, are cared for and are mentored and supported.

Deans are the head of each House and are responsible for the overall welfare of all students in their House. This role includes guidance and discipline, as well as encouraging student leadership within the House.

Each House is further divided into their Ako (Learner) groups - a mix of junior and senior students as well as specific Year 9 only groups - which meet three times per week.

## KAIĀRAHI AND AKO TIME

When a student first starts school they are placed in an Ako (learner) group within their House and remain in the same Ako group for their time at WHS.

Each Ako group is led by a Kaiārahi (learning advisor) who is responsible for caring and supporting students to reach for their heights. Kaiārahi track, monitor and mentor students to learn, progress and achieve, while also looking after their holistic wellbeing and all-round education.

Kaiārahi are the primary support person for students and families. They connect with them from day one, and regularly meet with students throughout the week at Ako time.



“

**ONCE I HEARD THAT BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IS NOT ONE AMAZING YEAR IN YOUR LIFE, IT IS A LIFE IN ONE YEAR. YOU WILL LEARN A LOT ABOUT YOURSELF, YOU'LL MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE, FRIENDS ALL AROUND THE WORLD, YOU WILL EARN A SECOND FAMILY THAT WILL BE THERE FOR YOUR EVERY SINGLE TIME YOU NEED THEM AND THAT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE IF I WOULDN'T COME HERE, I'M SO GLAD I DID IT AND I CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT IT HAS BEEN THE BEST YEAR OF MY LIFE.**

TOMAS,  
COLOMBIA



## **GUIDANCE COUNSELLING**

Guidance counselling provides an opportunity for students to talk about problems and concerns in a safe place. Our Guidance Counsellors listen without judging or criticising, to help find out the cause of problems and to help students move forward from the situation they may find themselves in.

They regularly play a key role in planning and implementing programmes and services to enhance student wellbeing and work towards reducing barriers to a student's progress.

Counsellors are able to work alongside families towards supporting our students and work closely at times with external agencies, to ensure families and students are able to access the resources available within our community.

Find out more about our Guidance Counsellors at [wakatipu.school.nz/guidance](http://wakatipu.school.nz/guidance)

## **CAREERS**

The Careers Department provides support and assistance to students with their ongoing career journey. This includes course planning, tertiary education applications, CV writing and more.

International Students are provided with pathways to study in New Zealand universities, overseas universities, and/or return to their home countries. WHS also offers the American education SATs for students interested in attending college in the USA

Career Education opportunities are promoted to all students through a range of mediums such as the school newsletter, Google classrooms, Kaiārahi and where appropriate targeted emails.

Some opportunities include:

- > University and polytechnic open days, careers events and information evenings
- > Employment exploration, exposure and experience
- > Careers Expo
- > Holiday courses
- > Career information visits

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

Student Services is a dedicated student help desk for students who have a question or need help.

Visit Student Services for:

- > Digital Technology support
- > Guidance counselling
- > Pastoral support from the duty Dean
- > Uniform shop
- > Health nurse
- > Pay fees
- > Careers



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Wakatipu High School has developed an excellent programme for international students, as attested by the recent Education Review Office report: "Particular care is taken to support international students' health and emotional wellbeing".

We have dedicated services for International students such as visa application, quality homestay placements and an approved study programme for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

## HOMESTAY AND COMMUNITY

The Queenstown community is renowned for welcoming overseas visitors and this reputation is built on our passion for hospitality and a desire to share our knowledge of the area.

All international students at Wakatipu High School are given the opportunity to join Queenstown families through the Homestay programme and many of these families have children already attending the school.

This close integration into the community gives students a real sense of belonging and provides a head start, allowing them to get to know the town and make friends quickly.

The Homestay programme is a well established and proven part of the Wakatipu High School culture with a dedicated Homestay Coordinator taking care of vetting, home visits and providing a liaison for everyone involved to help make the process straightforward and rewarding for everyone.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Our International orientation programme helps you get the best start to your student experience.

Prior to your arrival you will receive a welcome pack with lots of useful tips about student life and living in New Zealand.

On your first day of school you will be officially welcomed and meet with key staff that will help you make the best of your time at WHS.

We conclude our orientation programme with a social excursion for students and their homestay families. It is an opportunity to meet other students and explore the best of Queenstown.





# FACILITIES

## OUR CAMPUS

Wakatipu High School moved into a new school campus at Remarkables Park in early 2018. The new campus was designed and built in accordance with the principles of an Innovative Learning Environment (ILE), encompassing Flexible Learning Spaces as an integral part of learning.

Our modern facilities include two multi-purpose theatre spaces, a gym, outdoor gym circuit, specialist learning spaces, purpose built science laboratories, a musical rehearsal and a recording studio.

## LIBRARY

The library is a warm comfortable space for students to read, research, study and print their work. During the breaks, students can use jigsaw puzzles and board games and some groups (such as the Chess Club) meet in the library. Staff are available from 8.30am to 4pm so that students can borrow books, computers, and cameras; and so that students can get help with their work. The library also has an online presence via the school website, a blog page and an ebook borrowing platform.

## CAFE

WHS has a school cafe open during break time for students to purchase a healthy lunch. Orders can be placed digitally by parents for students to pick up at our cafe.

## UNIFORM SHOP

We operate an in-school uniform shop, with a full range of WHS Uniform items available for try-on purposes only. Uniforms can be purchased online via the Argyle shop.

- > For more information visit:  
[wakatipu.school.nz/uniform-shop](http://wakatipu.school.nz/uniform-shop)





# ATTENDING WHS

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Digital technology has a vital role in teaching and learning at WHS. All students are required to have a laptop to assist with their learning. As a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school we actively encourage our students to use digital technology confidently and competently.

- > Google Education Suite to provide access to learning resources from any location.
- > An online Portal with real-time reporting for students and parents to view attendance and assessment data.

For more information on BYOD requirements please visit [wakatipu.school.nz/byod](http://wakatipu.school.nz/byod)

## UNIFORM

We have a navy school uniform with options for summer and winter wear that we expect our students to wear with pride in school, when travelling to and from school, and when representing the school at any event.

## BUSES

WHS operates a 'mixed model' of school transport for our students. This means some WHS students use public buses, (and must pay student fares to and from school), and some use Ministry of Education provided free bus transportation, depending on the area in which they live.

## NEWSLETTER

WHS publishes a weekly newsletter during term time to communicate with parents and our wider community. Read our newsletter to stay up to date with all the latest news, updates, events, and information about WHS.

## WHS SZAPP

We use SchoolZine SZApp to communicate school alerts, student notices and our weekly newsletter. The App also features an absence form, the cafe online orders, the school calendar and some other handy links!

Our App can be downloaded on mobile devices from the Google Play and Apple Stores by searching for SZApp.





## TERM DATES 2023

**TERM 1:** Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April

**TERM 2:** Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June

**TERM 3:** Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

**TERM 4:** Monday 9 October to Wednesday 13 December

## USEFUL LINKS

### ABOUT US

- [international.wakatipu.school.nz/study/](https://international.wakatipu.school.nz/study/)

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- [wakatipu.school.nz/our-school](https://wakatipu.school.nz/our-school)

### NEWS

- [wakatipu.school.nz/school-news](https://wakatipu.school.nz/school-news)

### SCHOOL CONTACTS

- [wakatipu.school.nz/our-staff](https://wakatipu.school.nz/our-staff)

### ERO REPORT

- [ero.govt.nz/institution/374/wakatipu-high-school](https://ero.govt.nz/institution/374/wakatipu-high-school)

### ENROLMENT

- [wakatipu.enrol.school.nz/](https://wakatipu.enrol.school.nz/)

### LIVING IN QUEENSTOWN

- [international.wakatipu.school.nz/living](https://international.wakatipu.school.nz/living)

### COURSE OPTION SELECTION

- [wakatipu.schoolpoint.co.nz](https://wakatipu.schoolpoint.co.nz)

### ATTENDING WHS

- [wakatipu.school.nz/buses](https://wakatipu.school.nz/buses)

- [wakatipu.school.nz/uniform](https://wakatipu.school.nz/uniform)

- [wakatipu.school.nz/byod](https://wakatipu.school.nz/byod)

- [wakatipu.school.nz/uniform](https://wakatipu.school.nz/uniform)

- [wakatipu.school.nz/stationery](https://wakatipu.school.nz/stationery)

- [wakatipu.school.nz/lockers](https://wakatipu.school.nz/lockers)

### EXTRACURRICULAR

- [wakatipu.school.nz/extracurricular](https://wakatipu.school.nz/extracurricular)

### SPORTS

- [sporty.co.nz/wakatipu](https://sporty.co.nz/wakatipu)

### FACEBOOK

- > **School**  
[wakatipuHighSchoolQueenstown](#)
- > **Sports**  
[WakatipuHighSchoolSports](#)
- > **International Students**  
[international.wakatipu.high.school](#)
- > **WHS Alumni**  
[WakatipuhighschoolAlumni](#)

### INSTAGRAM

- > **School**  
[@wakatipuhighschool](#)
- > **Visual Arts**  
[@whsartdepartment](#)
- > **Student Executive Team**  
[@wakatipustudents](#)



## MARCELO CARNEIRO

### Director of International Students

is responsible for the care and support of each student. He coordinates all aspects affecting international students to ensure a consistent and high-quality service. As well as providing counseling and guidance, Marcelo assists with everything from enrolment to visa applications and regular communication with parents and agents. He is responsible for the careful selection of homestay families and ongoing liaison and support for them.

Email: [international@wakatipu.school.nz](mailto:international@wakatipu.school.nz)





Wakatipu  
HIGH SCHOOL

Queenstown  
NEW ZEALAND

