



Wakatipu
HIGH SCHOOL



2025 INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS

WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL
QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND





PROSPECTUS 2025

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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 VERY BEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTCOMES FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS EACH AND EVERY DAY.

Integral to our vision is student engagement, learning, progress and achievement. Our strong academic results, which have positioned us near the top of New Zealand, directly reflect this commitment.

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 from the junior to the senior school, including our iconic Branches camp for year 10 students and senior Outdoor Education classes.

Student engagement, wellbeing and resilience are very important at WHS, and we work hard to support our students to 'feel good and function well', to enjoy coming to school, but also to understand that sometimes things are hard and that we need to build strategies for working through times of challenge. We have a comprehensive

pastoral system, central to which are our five Houses - Arthur, Duncan, Fox, Hay and Mackenzie. Additionally, we have a school-wide wellbeing and resilience programme.

Our world class facilities support and enable students to achieve their potential no matter what their passion. Our students and staff strive to live the Wakatipu Way and we have a strong sense of pride in our school and our community.

Well-governed and very generously supported by the WHS Foundation and Branches Trust, Wakatipu High School is delivering on its vision to provide Aotearoa New Zealand's best all-round education.

We welcome you to join us at our remarkable campus and to 'reach for your heights'.



ODED NATHAN
PRINCIPAL



ĀKONGA PROFILE



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**



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



“

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT WAKATIPU IS HOW FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING THE PEOPLE ARE. THEY CONNECTED AND UNDERSTOOD ME FROM THE VERY FIRST MOMENT.

- MICHEL FLUGGEN, FROM GERMANY





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.



APPROX FLIGHT TIMES TO QUEENSTOWN

2 AUCKLAND
HRS

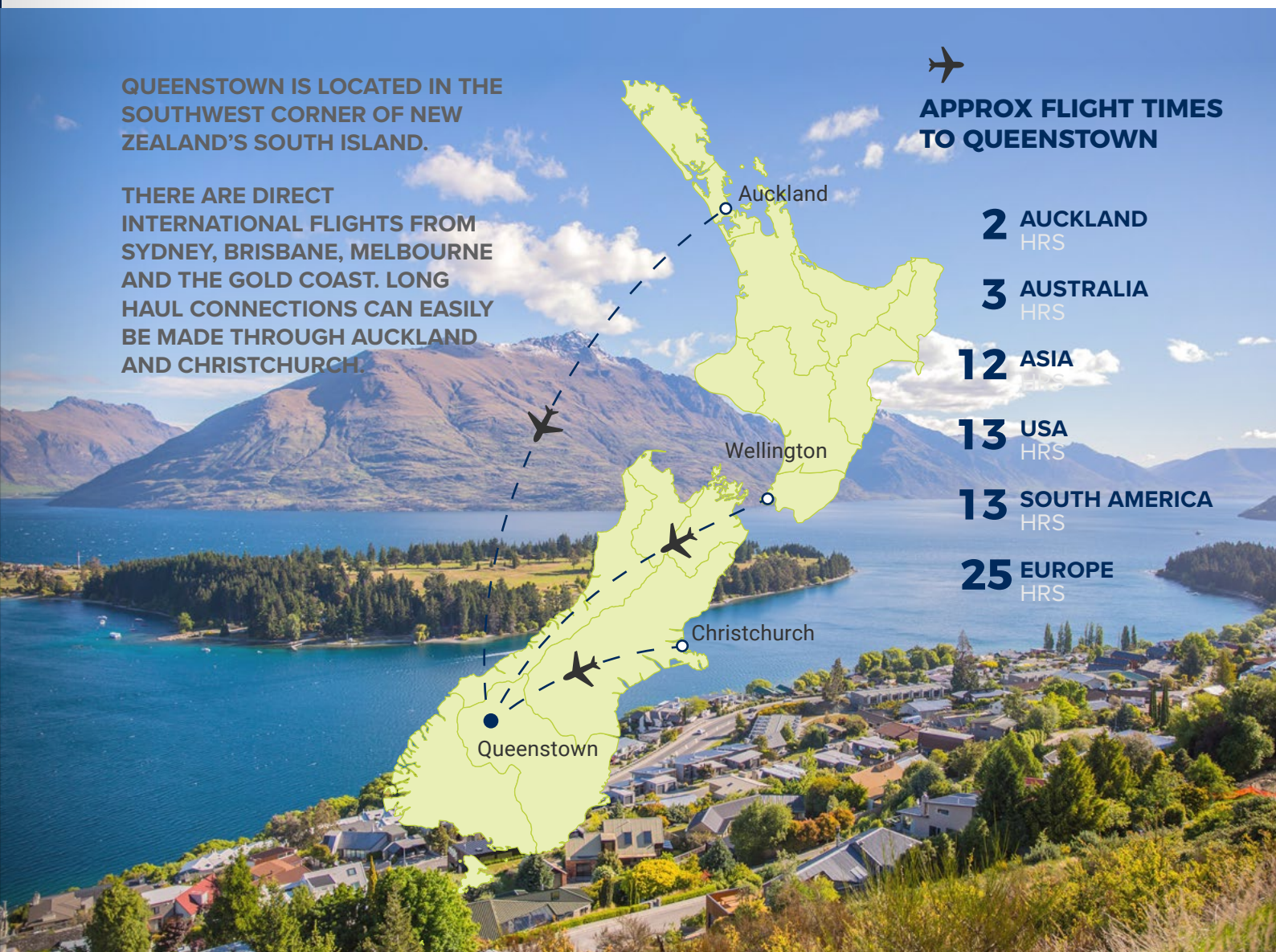
3 AUSTRALIA
HRS

12 ASIA
HRS

13 USA
HRS

13 SOUTH AMERICA
HRS

25 EUROPE
HRS



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 as well as Scholarships. We also have rigorous systems for monitoring and supporting students to reach for their heights and achieve their full potential.

“

STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP DRIVES IMPROVEMENT TO SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, TEACHING, AND LEARNING WHICH SUPPORT BEST OUTCOMES FOR LEARNERS; KEY CONDITIONS THAT UNDERPIN SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLING ARE STRONGLY EMBEDDED AND WELL-ALIGNED.”

- 2024 EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO) REPORT

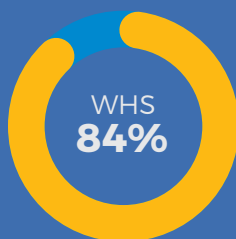


2024 ACADEMIC RESULTS



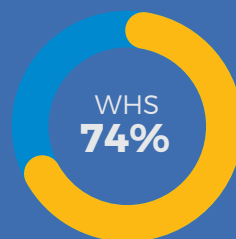
ACHIEVED NCEA LEVEL 2

The national average was 73% and the average for the Schooling Equality Index was 86%



ACHIEVED NCEA LEVEL 3

The national average was 68% and the average for the Schooling Equality Index was 82%



ACHIEVED UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

The national average was 48% and the average for the Schooling Equality Index was 66%

HIGH PERFORMANCE

LEVEL 2



ACHIEVED MERIT AND EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS

The national average was 28% and the average for the Otago region was 35%

LEVEL 3



ACHIEVED MERIT AND EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS

The national average was 27% and the average for the Otago region was 31%

SCHOLARSHIPS



Over \$900,000 in Tertiary Scholarships awarded



HE WAKA
EKE NOA

THE WAKATIPU WAY

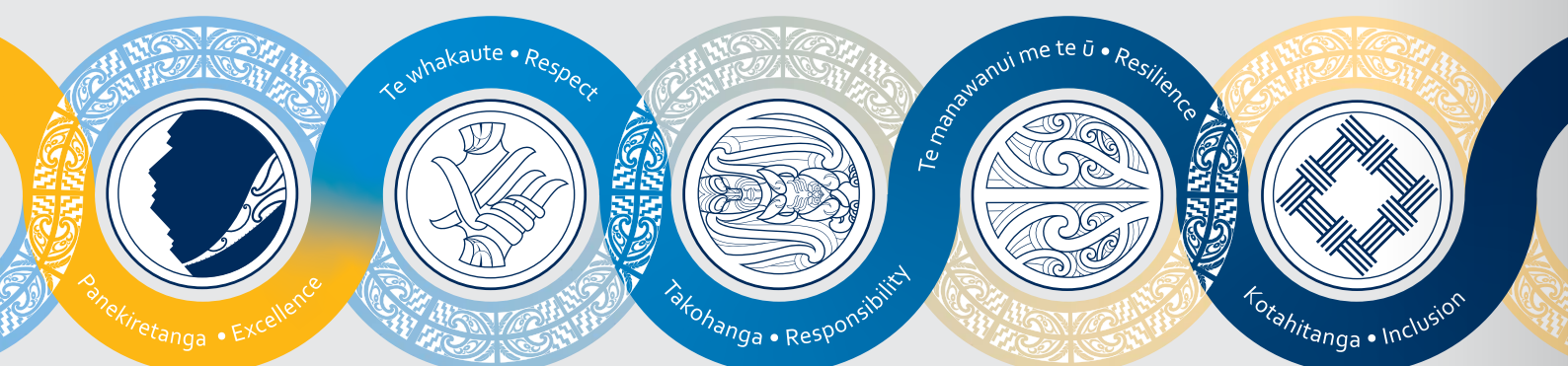
AHAKOA
HE ITI HE
POUNAMU



PRIDE Whakaŋi

VALUE THE SCHOOL
AND ITS PEOPLE

- We celebrate our successes
- We represent the school positively
- We wear our school uniform correctly



EXCELLENCE

Panekiretanga

STRIVING TO ACHIEVE
OUR PERSONAL BEST,
IN EVERYTHING WE DO

- > We do our best
- > We set and work towards personal goals
- > We challenge ourselves

RESPECT

Te whakaute

FOR SELF, OTHERS,
WHS, AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

- > We follow instructions
- > We use appropriate language
- > We take care of our school
- > We show our thanks

RESPONSIBILITY

Takohanga

CHOOSING OUR
RESPONSES, AND
BEING ACCOUNTABLE
FOR OUR DECISIONS,
ACTIONS AND
CONSEQUENCES

- > We own our actions
- > We are organised and use our time well
- > We look out for others

RESILIENCE

Te manawanui me te ū

BEING ABLE TO COPE
WITH AND GROW FROM
CHALLENGE

- > We believe in ourselves and others
- > We keep trying even when things are hard
- > We seek help when we need it
- > We actively manage our wellbeing

INCLUSION

Kotahitanga

ACTIVELY WELCOMING,
INCLUDING ALL AND
CREATING A SAFE
ENVIRONMENT

- > We are kind and considerate
- > We listen to and value others
- > We support others to belong

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 pathways - 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.

We also provide literacy and numeracy support, ESOL classes for second language learners, talent development programmes, separate scholarship support, extension and accelerated learning opportunities across the learning areas.

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, service 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 FLEXIBLE 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:

- > **Whakawhānaukatanga** - 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.

WHS LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

WHS's Learning Environment provides 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 spaces 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 knowledge that student choice is fundamental to engagement, which in turn supports learning, progress and achievement.

Students in the junior school (Years 9 and 10) select 12 classes per year - with six classes 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 class 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 the opportunity to develop their self-management and 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 and ensuring they get the essential skills and knowledge for the future.

Junior students take twelve, half-year 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 compulsory English, Mathematics and Science.

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

ENGLISH

- > English
- > Media Studies

ARTS

- > Music
- > Design
- > Painting
- > Photography
- > Performing Arts
- > 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 Studies
- > Commerce
- > Economics
- > Business Studies
- > Geography
- > History
- > Tourism

TECHNOLOGY

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

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.

Our Year 10 students sit the NCEA corequisite exams for Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Numeracy and are provided with further opportunities to achieve their corequisites in Year 11 and

Year 12, if required.

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.

**SUPPORTING
STUDENTS TO
ACHIEVE THEIR
“BEST POSSIBLE
QUALIFICATION”**



STUDENTS EXPERIENCE MEANINGFUL AND INTENTIONAL TEACHING, WHERE THE CLASSROOM CULTURE IS WELL ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT THEIR LEARNING

- 2024 EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE (ERO) REPORT



REPORTING

Our Learning Engagement (LE) indicators are issued digitally every week to parents, host parents and students. LE reports provide an overview of a student's engagement and effort in classwork and indicate whether they are living the Wakatipu Way in each of their classes.

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 (mentor teachers) provide mid-year (end of Term 2) and end-of-year (end of Term 4) comments summarising students' academic achievement, engagement indicators, extra and co-curricular involvement as well as an overall summary in relation to student citizenship.



“

I HAVE DONE THINGS HERE THAT I HAVE NEVER DONE IN MY LIFE BEFORE, THINGS YOU SHOULD DO AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, LIKE THE SNOW CAVING ACTIVITIES IN MY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CLASS.

- NINA HEINRICH, FROM GERMANY

EXTRACURRICULAR





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.

The Sports Department enables student participation, development and performance pathways in more than 40 sport and active recreation opportunities on offer at or through WHS.

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 New Zealand and international touring 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. Recently we have experienced significant success nationally and internationally in rowing, mountain biking, tennis, golf, cricket, adventure racing, ice hockey, cross-country, snow sports and more. Our student-athletes are well supported by staff to pursue their sporting ambitions and manage their academic demands successfully. WHS also offers the American education SATs for students interested in attending college in the USA.

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



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





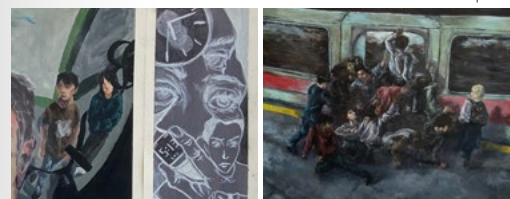
WHS 2024 Musical "Hairspray"



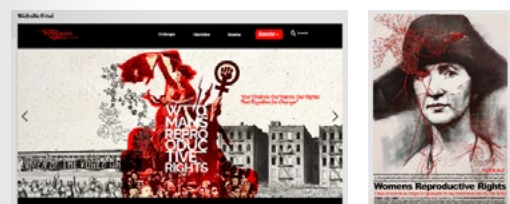
2023 Jazz Band Blenheim Trip



2023 Showquest



Georgia Henderson Scholarship in Painting



Frida Rylev, Scholarship in Design

ARTS AND CULTURE

WE OFFER AN EXTENSIVE ARTS PROGRAMME THROUGH OUR VISUAL ARTS, MUSIC 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, our annual Musical, and songwriting events. 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 are a number of local events and venues where our musicians are able to perform and showcase their skills. We are extremely fortunate to have the support of local organisations such as Rockformation, Turn Up the Music, and The Whakatipu Youth Trust. Students are also encouraged to organise their own gigs in and around town wherever possible. Students who are enrolled in Music classes are offered itinerant music lessons which run during school hours. The Music classes cover a range of skills including performance, composition, music theory, music technology and an overview of a range of music contexts.

highlighting the exceptional calibre of their work. We take pride in recognising our senior students' accomplishments, as they annually secure numerous Scholarships in Photography, Painting, and Design. Our art department's focus is on guiding each student towards creating art that holds significance to them personally while continuing to develop conceptual ideas.

DRAMA AND PERFORMING ARTS TECHNOLOGIES

Drama has considerable involvement in a range of activities including the 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 where there is a focus on NZ Theatre. 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 such as Showbiz, Remarkables Theatre, and Whirlwind Productions. They also work with local companies such as TomTom Productions and Soundpeople.

VISUAL ARTS

Our dynamic Visual Arts department offers students a rich selection of courses including Painting, Design, Photography, and Sculpture. The culmination of their creative endeavours is proudly displayed throughout the year in local exhibitions,

> Follow us on Instagram:
@wakatipuvisualartdept



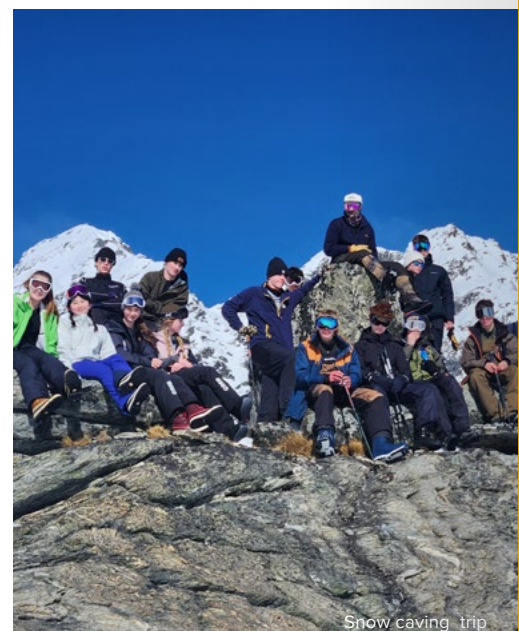
Year 9 Greenstone Camp



Clutha kayaking trip



Branches Camp



Snow caving trip

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 surrounding environment. Year 9 students participate in a river-based Outdoor Education camp at Greenstone Station early in Term 1, where they will spend 3 days camping in tents on the farm while learning about river safety (river crossing, river swimming, kayaking), day tramping (Lake Rere) and developing relationships in their house groups. Greenstone Camp sets the scene for our students to become connected to the "Wakatipu Way".

The famous Year 10 Branches Camp has been running for over 55 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 iconic Lochnagar tramp, rafting the Upper Shotover River, overnight search & rescue and campcraft. Branches is often one of students' most memorable experiences from Wakatipu High School.

We also offer an awesome Outdoor Education 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 at Kaware Falls, and participating in mountain expeditions on the Remarkables.



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 kick 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 annual 'Matatū' (haka and waiata) competition, debating, netball and much more. Points are awarded at each event contributing to the award of the House Cup at the end of the year.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Providing opportunities for and developing student leadership is very important at WHS. Student Executive positions are Head and Deputy Head Students 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. House Leaders are also responsible for organising and leading students, developing house spirit and leading with House assemblies.

STUDENT COUNCILS

- > Academic
- > Arts & Culture
- > Community and Service
- > Environmental
- > Multicultural
- > Junior
- > Māori and Pasifika
- > Sports
- > 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 supported by the Graeme Dingle Foundation.



Participation Day Marches



WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL AIMS TO KEEP STUDENT WELLBEING AT THE FOREFRONT OF ALL THAT WE DO, BELIEVING THAT STUDENTS CANNOT LEARN OR ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL WITHOUT A STRONG SENSE OF WELLBEING.

While there are multiple ways to conceptualise and measure wellbeing, Felicia Huppert's definition 'feeling good and functioning well' provides a succinct definition of what wellbeing is and it's a shared language that we like to use. It is useful to note that this definition doesn't necessarily mean that we're happy all the time and doesn't mean that we won't experience tough times. In regards to resilience, it isn't about being bulletproof, it's about coping well despite problems and being able to recover over time.

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

SCHOOL-WIDE WELLBEING PLAN

Through our school-wide wellbeing plan we focus on the concept of positive education. We teach specific skills that assist staff and students to build up their kete 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, where all students feel a sense of belonging, are cared for and are mentored and supported.

Deans are the head of each House and in conjunction with the Kaiārahi, 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 groups - which are based on year level - which meet three times per week.

KAIĀRAHI AND AKO TIME

When a student first starts school they are placed in an Ako 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.

The Kaiārahi is 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.

**KAIĀRAHI
IS YOUR
STUDENT'S
KEY SUPPORT
PERSON AT
SCHOOL**



“

THE TEACHERS REALLY CARE ABOUT THE STUDENTS, YOU CAN ASK THEM ANY QUESTIONS AND THEY WILL HELP YOU OUT

- MOJI WESABANPHOT, FROM THAILAND



GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

Guidance counselling provides an opportunity for students to talk confidentially 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-support

CAREERS

The Careers Department provides support and assistance to students with their ongoing career journey. This includes course planning, scholarship information, assistance with job and tertiary education applications, apprenticeships, work exploration and/or transitioning to work, STAR and Gateway programmes, CV writing and more.

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

Some opportunities include:

- > University and polytechnic open days, careers events and information evenings
- > Presentations from the defence forces and employers
- > Employment exploration, exposure and experience
- > 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:

- > IT support
- > Guidance Counselling
- > Pastoral support from the duty Dean
- > Pay fees
- > Career Counselling

HEALTH NURSES

Students also have free access to a registered Health Nurse who visits the school on a weekly basis.



RECOGNISING STUDENT SUCCESS

CELEBRATING THE MAHI, EFFORT AND ACHIEVEMENT

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).



2024 Dux - Harry Seeto

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 recognise senior students who exemplify the Wakatipu Way and is calculated from the weekly Learning Engagement indicators.

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.

Students track these in their passport and once they achieve 15 points they get a Bronze award, followed by a Silver (30 points) and then Gold (50 Points) Ākonga Passport award.

We recognise these achievements in the same assembly as Ad Alta and Excellence for Seniors. There are also prize draws during the year for students who achieve their passport.

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
- > Art
- > Culture
- > Extracurricular Activities

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





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.





FACILITIES

OUR CAMPUS

Our world class facilities include two multi-purpose theatre spaces, two gymnasiums (including a double and single gym), outdoor gym circuit, specialist learning spaces, purpose built science laboratories, a musical rehearsal and a recording studio. The 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.

The school is built for 1625 students and includes onsite student facilities such as a cafe, fitness studio, climbing wall, outdoor basketball courts as well as student social spaces.

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. 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. There are two cafe service points, one for senior students and one for junior students. The cafe is cashless however does offer the option to have money on account for spending at the cafe only.

UNIFORM SHOP

NZ Uniforms is our uniform supplier who operate a retail outlet in Remarkables Park a short walk from the school. The retail store is open six days per week and has onsite staff knowledgeable with our school uniform requirements. For more information visit:

wakatipu.school.nz/uniform-shop

wakatipu.nzuniforms.com

“

MY EXPERIENCE AT WAKATIPU HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN WONDERFUL, IT IS SO EASY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE, TEACHERS ARE SO SUPPORTIVE AND THE SCHOOL IS QUITE ORGANISED WHEN IT COMES TO ARRANGE CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS.



- KK METHANUKHOR, FROM THAILAND





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.

For more information on BYOD requirements please visit wakatipu.school.nz/byod, please note that our network works optimally with Windows devices and additionally Chromebooks cannot connect to our network.

Students must bring their laptop to school fully charged every day as there are no dedicated charging outlets for student laptops.

We have an IT technician who is onsite part of each school day and who can help facilitate students connecting to the network and any connectivity issues. Note that the IT technician will not assist students with hardware related issues.

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 the Ministry of Education provided free bus transportation, depending on the area in which they live. Our website has additional information around eligibility and routes.

wakatipu.school.nz/buses

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.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

wakatipu.school.nz





TERM DATES 2025

TERM 1: Monday 27 January to Friday 11 April

TERM 2: Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June

TERM 3: Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September

TERM 4: Monday 06 October to Wednesday 10 December

TERM DATES 2026*

TERM 1: Monday 26 January to Thursday 02 April

TERM 2: Monday 20 April to Friday 03 July

TERM 3: Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

TERM 4: Monday 12 October to Wednesday 09 December

*Tentative at time of publication.

USEFUL LINKS

ABOUT US

- wakatipu.school.nz/our-school

STRATEGIC PLAN

- wakatipu.school.nz/our-school

NEWS

- wakatipu.school.nz/school-news

SCHOOL CONTACTS

- wakatipu.school.nz/our-staff

ERO REPORT

- ero.govt.nz/institution/374/wakatipu-high-school

WHS FOUNDATION

- whsf.nz

BRANCHES TRUST

- branchetrust.co.nz

ENROLMENT

- wakatipu.school.nz/enrolment

COURSE OPTION SELECTION

- wakatipu.schoolpoint.co.nz

ATTENDING WHS

- wakatipu.school.nz/buses

- wakatipu.school.nz/uniform

- wakatipu.school.nz/byod

- wakatipu.school.nz/stationery

- wakatipu.school.nz/lockers

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- wakatipu.school.nz/awhina

EXTRACURRICULAR

- wakatipu.school.nz/extracurricular

SPORTS

- sporty.co.nz/wakatipu

FACEBOOK

- > [School](#)
WakatipuHighSchoolQueenstown
- > [Sports](#)
WakatipuHighSchoolSports
- > [International Students](#)
International.wakatipu.high.school
- > [WHS Alumni](#)
WakatipuhighschoolAlumni
- > [WHS Foundation](#)
Wakatipuhfoundation

INSTAGRAM

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

Our cultural pattern was designed by the Maui design studio in consultation with our Rūnaka, Ōraka-Aparima. The resulting work is a tāonga - a treasure for the school. The cultural pattern incorporate four key elements: Poutama (various steps of learning and achievement), Koru (growth), Manu Feathers (cultural diversity) and Manaia (representing kaitiakitanga/guardianship).