



Wakatipu HIGH SCHOOL

QUEENSTOWN | NEW ZEALAND



Reach for your heights

Welcome to Wakatipu High School



Wakatipu High School's mission is to deliver a 'great all-round education that enables our students to reach for their heights' – and that is what we do every day.

The key priority in this great all-round education is student learning, progress and achievement, and our results are testament to the very high levels of academic achievement of our students.

Wakatipu High School students also achieve success in vocational pathways through our Careers, Trades Academy and Gateway programmes, with ERO noting specifically that 'senior students have a wide range of subject options and courses to prepare them for life beyond school'. In addition, we provide learning support in literacy and numeracy as well as a Gifted and Talented programme to support all of our students to reach their potential. In 2017 we also introduce a new timetable which will allow junior students opportunity for choice and engagement while experiencing the breadth of the curriculum.

As well as our academic foundation, Wakatipu High School offers students a wealth of 'all-round' extra and co-curricular opportunities in sport, arts, music, culture, community and leadership. From our Ski Academy and rowing, to our jazz band, school Musical, Stage Challenge, Kapa Haka group, Model United Nations, Duke of Edinburgh, and trips and exchanges to Aspen, Japan, India, Noumea and France – we offer students an incredible range of opportunities in which to learn and grow, and develop into confident and connected young people.

Geographically the Wakatipu Basin is a unique environment, enabling us to offer outstanding Outdoor Education programmes including the iconic Branches Camp. Our environment also attracts international students from around the globe, giving our students the chance to learn and grow as members of a multicultural community - an opportunity normally reserved for larger urban centres.

Students' wellbeing and engagement is very important to us, and the very high results of our 'student voice' surveys show that our students feel safe and enjoy coming to Wakatipu High School. Pastoral support is through our Whanau (House) structure and Deans, as well as our Guidance Counsellor. This structure also provides the basis for our very keenly-contested Inter-House competitions.

Well-governed by a capable Board, and very generously supported by the Wakatipu High School Foundation, Wakatipu High School is on an exciting journey - especially with the move to our new innovative learning environment school at Remarkables Park in 2018.

We welcome you to the Wakatipu High School community, where students truly receive a great all-round education and 'reach for their heights' in one of the most special places in the world.

Mr Steve Hall
PRINCIPAL

Academic success

Student achievement is the number one priority and responsibility of schools, and over the last few years Wakatipu High School has had an increased focus on student learning, progress and achievement which has yielded great academic results and success.

Over that period, a particular focus for the government and Ministry of Education has been students achieving NCEA Level 2. We have embraced this educational challenge and have worked very hard to support and enable as many of our students as possible to achieve this important qualification. Our holistic approach has included focusing on great teaching and learning, and the introduction of new systems for monitoring and tracking students. We have provided mentors for students in need of extra support, and now have an overhauled reporting system that reports to parents every three weeks. As a result we have celebrated dramatic rises in the number of students achieving NCEA Level 2.

As well as NCEA Level 2, an important focus for us is the University Entrance (UE) qualification as many of our students go on to University study. More than 60% of our students continue to study at university or tertiary level and nearly every student that aspires to attend University achieves their goal.

As well as key educational qualifications we also have a real focus on 'high performance', which encompasses Merit and Excellence endorsements and Scholarships. We have made huge strides in the number of Scholarship awards our students gain and have consistently been near the top of the tables for Otago/Southland.

In terms of the national focus on 'Priority Learners', our Maori and Pasifika students continue to exceed our targets and that of the top decile schools in New Zealand.

When we look at our 'preparing students for life' goal (i.e. students leaving Wakatipu High School with either NCEA Level 2 or being on a vocational pathway) last year 96% of our students achieved this.

Senior Leadership Team

Principal

Mr Steve Hall

Senior Deputy Principal

Mr Oded Nathan

Deputy Principal

Mr James Rasmussen

Assistant Principal

Mrs Sonia Panapa

Board of Trustees

Parent Trustees

Whānau Trustee

The election was being held when this prospectus was being printed.

Staff Trustee

Mr Julian Hardman

Student Trustee

Luke Petre

WHS ACADEMIC RESULTS	2015	2014
NCEA Level 2 (roll-based)	86%	91%
University Entrance (participation-based)	75%	75%
Scholarships	16 (incl 2 outstanding)	22
Students on a 'Pathway' (NCEA Level 2 or Pathway)	96%	97%
Students 'engaged' in school and learning (NZCER Survey)	94%	90%

“Wakatipu High School is moving into a new class with the academic heavyweights of Otago secondary schools”

OTAGO DAILY TIMES 23/2/15

Otago Daily Times • Monday, February 23, 2015

Pupils' hard work pays off

High school significantly increases number of scholarships won

By JOHN LEWIS

WAKATIPU High School is moving into a new class with the academic heavyweights of Otago secondary schools after posting several excellent results in the past 12 months.

Historically, the school has achieved between 5 and 15 scholarships in New Zealand Scholarship exams each year, but this year the school significantly increased its tally with 22 scholarships in the 2014 exams.

Principal Steven Hall said it was not an accident.

The school had pupils who were motivated to go for “the absolute pinnacle of pro-academic achievement” and staff had been focusing on supporting them, he said.

“This is a significant step up. We have very good students here and it’s part of a whole big picture of what we’re doing to lift the level of our student achievement.”

“Part of this it, we have a number of goals — what we refer to as goals of the people — they are preparing students for life.”

“We also want to prepare those who want to be able to shoot for the best universities in the world. We want to give them the best opportunities we possibly can.”

Mr Hall said the school had also made big improvements in its NCEA level 2 results, and had done very well in University Entrance despite the qualification getting harder last year.

“So there’s a bunch of things that we’ve moved on. We’re very, very pleased. There was a specific focus on

ning for Wakatipu High School. While many Otago secondary schools put a strong emphasis on New Zealand Scholarship exams, others do not emphasise it, because it is not a qualification.

Some schools prefer to focus on NCEA or International Baccalaureate examinations instead.

Although Wakatipu High School was reporting vast improvements in its New Zealand Scholarship results, secondary schools across Otago had not been as successful as in previous years.

Historically, Otago school pupils have featured on the list of elite academics who received Premier Awards, Outstanding Scholar Awards and Top Subject Scholarship Awards.

No Otago pupils featured on those lists for the 2014 year.

New Zealand Scholarship exams are designed to extend the very best pupils and to financially reward able pupils who are going on to tertiary study.

The examinations cover the same content as NCEA level 3 achievement standards, but the standard of performance required is much higher.

Scholarship award winners can receive up to \$2000 per year, for up to three years, as long as the recipient maintains at least a B-grade average pass rating each year of their tertiary study.

john.lewis@odt.co.nz

“We have very good students here and it’s part of a whole big picture of what we’re doing to lift the level of our student achievement”

Published courtesy of the Otago Daily Times.


Great teachers

As part of our journey to ensuring we are delivering a great all-round education and progressing as a school, we’ve developed a ‘Great Teacher’ profile.

The profile was developed in consultation with staff and middle leaders over a period of time, and we are now making it more visible within the school, including engaging students in providing feedback to teachers on the elements of the profile.

While developing this we also worked on a Great Wakatipu High School Staff member profile which sits above it. Each profile has five to six key elements, which we identified as the most important distinguishing attributes and behaviours of great teachers and staff members.

As we move towards our new innovative learning environment, including greater use of e-Learning and the introduction of BYOD, we’re also developing a Great Wakatipu High School Student profile, which will contain the key learning dispositions and behaviours required for students to become successful 21st century learners.



GREAT TEACHERS...

- are inspired and passionate
- have high expectations
- are student-centred
- give effective feedback
- differentiate
- know their impact (use data and evidence)

= great learning, progress and achievement for 5/5 students



Curriculum

At Wakatipu High School, we believe that students should have the opportunity to experience the full breadth of the curriculum in the junior years before becoming more specialised in the senior years.

As we start our journey towards an innovative learning environment (ILE) school, we are also reviewing our curriculum, including to ensure it supports 21st century and e-Learning, and includes student choice to support engagement.

As below, we are introducing a new timetable in 2017. In this timetable students in Years 9 and 10 will experience the eight essential learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum, and get to follow their passions and strengths as well as gain the literacy and numeracy they will need for their pathway. As they move to the senior school, students become more specialized in their chosen pathway.

We offer a broad range of subjects in the senior and junior school as well as literacy and numeracy support, ESOL classes for second language learners, a Talent Development (Gifted and Talented) programme, plus extension and accelerated learning opportunities across all learning areas.

With the introduction of our new timetable in 2017 students will be supported, both academically and pastorally, by a Learning Adviser - which is explained in more detail to the right.

WHS's vision is for a great all-round education and we actively encourage and support students to engage in education both in and out of the classroom to support their haoura or health and well-being and their development as a young person.

Timetable

In 2017 we are introducing a new timetable at WHS. The review of the timetable took several years and preparation for implementation has taken place over the last year. Key criteria of the new timetable included that it supports students to achieve academically and our move to a future-focussed education as part of our move to our innovative learning environment (ILE) new school, that it be flexible and include a 'Learning Adviser'.

In the new timetable senior students will select up to six subjects per year, each of which runs for the whole year, and students in Years 9 and 10 will select twelve semesterised subjects per year, each of which runs for half a year. For junior students, the timetable balances students experiencing the breadth of the curriculum with student choice, and literacy and numeracy 'safety nets'. The new timetable is also 'seamless' between the senior and junior school, which makes it possible for students to be able to study at a level that best supports their learning, progress and achievement.

Each subject has seven and a half hours class time over a ten day (two week) cycle, and, similar to the last few years, that time is three 60 and three 90 minute periods.

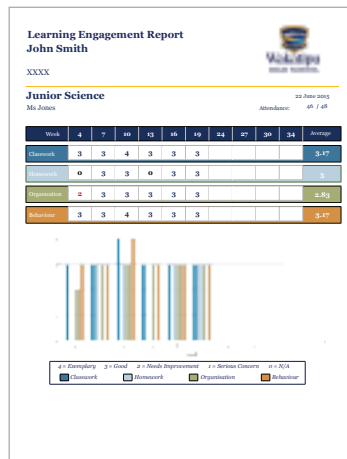
The Learning Adviser is an important feature of the new timetable - and one which we think is a significant step for students and WHS. While students have had a Tutor Group teacher, who they see for a short time which is very administration-focussed, students will have Learning Adviser time for four 60 minute periods over the cycle, which will enable Learning Advisers much greater ability to get to know students and support and mentor them academically and pastorally.

Reporting

We believe all parents and students should receive regular and timely feedback that best supports student learning, progress and achievement.

Our Learning Engagement Reports (LE Reports) are issued every three weeks to parents and students via email and through our online Portal.

These reports provide a clear and concise overview from every class and teacher relating to a student's effort and engagement in Classwork, Homework, Organisation and Behaviour.



The reports enable students to modify their learning behaviours as needed, and give parents the information they need to help support learning and improve student achievement.

We also make extensive use of the online Portal to provide parents and students with useful and timely feedback on academic progress and achievement. Teachers report on the level that the student is working at, provide feedback on what the student can do to improve and outline next steps for learning.

Senior students and parents receive feedback each term as to how students are tracking towards their NCEA Qualification and the goals they set for themselves at the start of the year.

Students also receive 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.

We also have a number of 'Next Steps Interviews' throughout the year that give parents and students the chance to have face-to-face discussions with teachers about next steps for learning.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Our students are constantly using digital devices to communicate and learn both inside and outside the school environment. As a result, since the beginning of 2016, all students at Wakatipu High School have been required to bring a device to school each day to assist with their learning.

A student-owned device is an important part of their toolkit, giving them instant access to unlimited resources and enabling them to support, extend, communicate and share their learning. This ultimately prepares them for life beyond school in a global environment.

There are many advantages to student-owned devices and teachers are experienced in using these devices to extend students learning opportunities.

Details about the required specifications of devices can be found on our school website.

We do recognise that BYOD may be a financial burden for some families and so, with the generous support of the Wakatipu High School Foundation, we offer considerable financial support through our Awhi Fund. Please contact our Guidance Counsellor if you require further information.





Pastoral

Our pastoral network has a solid foundation based around caring for individual student needs - which can be either academic, social or emotional. The pastoral network involves the entire staff working in a safe, caring environment, ensuring each student is able to reach their full potential. Key members of staff in the pastoral team are our House Deans and, for 2017, Learning Advisers.

Deans are responsible for the overall welfare of all students in their House, with a role that encompasses guidance, coordination, as well as discipline and supporting leadership within their House. Learning Advisers will be the key point of contact for parents, students and staff. Additional pastoral staff include our Guidance Counsellor, Careers Counsellor and the Senior Leadership Team.

Pastoral care is a shared responsibility - in partnership with parents, we ensure that each student has optimal opportunity to become an independent, caring, reliable and responsible member of the WHS community. The pastoral network continues to strive toward developing our schoolwide values of Excellence, Responsibility, Resilience, Diversity and Respect.

Houses

The school is divided into five Houses whose names are taken from early settlers in the Wakatipu Basin – Arthur, Duncan, Fox, Hay and Mackenzie.

Each House has a Dean who has the oversight over the entire House, which in 2017 will be further divided into smaller Learning Adviser groups. The model is that students remain in the same Learning Adviser groups throughout their time at Wakatipu High School so that Learning Advisers get to know their students well over the years. Learning Advisers should be the first point of contact for parents with any questions or concerns about progress or welfare.

A strong and important aspect of the House system is the Inter-House competition. This is a fiercely-fought feature of the school calendar. It kicks off with our Participation Day early in the year and includes a range of activities from the arts, sports and academic areas of the school.

Student leadership

There are numerous student leadership opportunities available at Wakatipu High School, many of which are fostered through our Inter-House competition.

The Student Council and its sub-committees are responsible for developing our vibrant Inter-House competition which includes events such as Participation Day, Swim Sports, Haka/Waiata Competition, Debating, Athletics and so much more.

There are multiple sub-committees of the Student Council, including Academic, Sports, Arts, Environmental and Community and Service Councils.

House Leaders are responsible for organising students, developing House spirit and leading the charge in the Inter-House competition.

We also run the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Sports and recreation

As part of our great all-round education our goal is to have all students involved in some sort of extra or co-curricular activity. To enable this, we offer a wide range of sport, cultural, leadership and arts opportunities to our students.

The school employs a Sports Coordinator and an Arts Coordinator (both funded in part by the Wakatipu High School Foundation) to promote and enable student participation and excellence in their sport or activity.

A wide range of sports are offered locally. These can take place before or after school, during breaks and/or at the weekend. Some sports are hosted at school, while others are offered in conjunction with local clubs. Competitions and tournaments are held locally, regionally and nationally depending on the level of achievement.

The Sports Coordinator also arranges our major sports exchanges of which we have two at present - with James Hargest College in Invercargill, and Central Southland College in Winton.

Our unique location means we also take part in several annual international school visits, with competitions in many sports.

The school rewards sporting and cultural excellence at our prestigious end-of-year Blues Night – a formal function that culminates in the presentation of our school's Blues Awards.

Student camps

Some of the most memorable school days at Wakatipu High School are those spent outside school on school camps. Outdoor Education provides excellent opportunities for personal growth, learning skills in outdoor survival, appreciating and caring for the environment, developing personal responsibility, social interactions and friendships with others.

The school has developed a comprehensive and coordinated junior Outdoor Education programme in our unique Queenstown environment. Most activities involve trips away from school, the cost of which varies.

Year 9 students participate in a river-based Outdoor Education camp at Greenstone Station in their first few weeks in Term 1, and in Term 3 they have a 'Journeys experience' travelling by non-motorised means around the Wakatipu Basin including horse trekking, tramping, mountain biking and kayaking.

The Year 10 Outdoor Education camp to Branches Station, is an event all past students remember for the rest of their lives. For 12 days the entire year group is isolated from normal life, living under canvas while experiencing outdoor pursuits including abseiling, rafting, tramping, bushcraft, survival skills, kayaking and shooting. They also learn personal, interpersonal and leadership skills. This camp has a tradition of nearly 50 years and is one of the longest-running camps under canvas in the country!

New Zealand Alpine Sports Academy

For over a decade the New Zealand Alpine Sports Academy has been an invaluable programme enabling aspiring young athletes to pursue sporting and academic excellence. Participants in the Academy's winter programme train in their chosen alpine skiing or snowboarding disciplines with expert coaching from the Queenstown Alpine Ski Team. The athletes train on snow at least four days a week and have their school work delivered over the afternoon on three of these, so that academic achievement is maintained. Past and present New Zealand Winter Olympians have previously been a part of the Academy and had the opportunity to excel in sporting and academic arenas.

Outdoor Recreation

We also offer a unique Outdoor Recreation programme, making the most of the amazing local environment. Year 12 and 13 students gain credits and experiences in kayaking, tramping, bushcraft, mountain expeditions, snow caving and safety management. Highlights of the programme include tramping the Rockburn Valley, kayaking the Clutha River and a snow expedition at The Remarkables.

Year 9 Snow Programme

Students in Year 9 have a one day per week ski/snowboard programme running for six weeks during Term 3. We make the most of our close proximity to Coronet Peak and the expertise of mountain staff for this teaching and learning programme. This programme gives all students access to this special aspect of our local environment and enables them to learn to ski/snowboard under the guidance of professional instructors as part of our Health and Physical Education programme.





Arts and culture

We offer an extensive Arts programme through our visual arts, music and drama departments, along with exciting extra-curricular opportunities. Participation and excellence in the Arts is encouraged and rewarded. The Arts are offered from Year 9 and can be studied at all NCEA levels.

Every year, we produce a very successful school Musical involving a number of students from Years 9 to 13 in both technical and performance areas.

At Years 12 and 13 the students produce and perform a high-quality dramatic piece to a small live audience.

Our acclaimed jazz bands compete annually in the Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival held in Blenheim, and the Southern Schools Jazz Fest in Invercargill, and perform publicly during the Queenstown Winter Festival.

Numerous school rock bands compete in the Smokefree Rockquest competition every year, and also perform on stage at the Queenstown Winter Festival in conjunction with 'Big Break'.

Our opportunities for singing include junior group tuition with an outside tutor, as well as involvement in a variety of musical events and activities.

Our extensive visual arts department offers students courses in painting, design and photography, and their folio work is exhibited at the end of the year along with varying local café exhibitions.

The 'Artz' Council, comprised of senior students, holds many events throughout the year, actively involving students in different areas of the Arts.





International student programme

Wakatipu High School has developed an excellent programme for international students. We currently have 40 students from over 12 nationalities.

We offer:

- A safe and supportive community
- Full pastoral care and support
- An approved study programme for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Integration with New Zealand classes to study for New Zealand qualifications

At Wakatipu High School we place the highest priority on the happiness and wellbeing of our international students. To achieve this we provide:

- Dedicated support services
- Quality homestay placement and support
- Excellent school guidance support

International students are also offered career and guidance counselling to ensure that their subject selection and progress matches their tertiary goals.

Students are provided with pathways to study in New Zealand universities, overseas universities, and/or return to their home countries.

For further information on our international student programme, please contact jpotts@wakatipu.school.nz



Mrs Joan Potts

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Mrs Potts assists with everything from enrolment to visa application, subject selection, communication with agents and parents, and general pastoral care of students.

Mrs Donna Baldey

HOMESTAY COORDINATOR

Mrs Baldey inspects prospective accommodation, interviews hosts and carefully matches students to homestays. Students are met at the airport on arrival and given ongoing pastoral support.

ESOL Teachers

We have two specialist teachers who provide classes at five different levels. They offer skills, pathways to NCEA and IELTS (International English Language Testing System).



The new school

A particularly exciting element of being a Wakatipu High School student over the next few years will be the move to our brand new school.

Situated in the sun at Remarkables Park, it is scheduled to open in 2018. Our new home will be a state-of-the-art secondary school, designed to deliver a 21st century education. Notably it will feature larger and more open 'innovative learning environments', general teaching and learning spaces, as well as specialist spaces including science labs, materials workshops, food technology and hospitality, and a theatre and gymnasium.

We are very excited about this move and the opportunities it presents for Wakatipu High School, and we have already begun to review and develop our pedagogy and structures in anticipation.



Wakatipu High School Foundation

The Wakatipu High School Foundation was established in 2014, in part to offset the lower level of funding that Wakatipu High School receives as a Decile 10 school, but primarily as a vehicle for the community to support the school in delivering the very best education possible for its young people. In a short time it has been hugely successful, raising an incredible \$906,000 to date!

The Wakatipu High School Foundation has funded a range of initiatives, including strategic and more immediate projects, which support the full range of students to have a great all-round education.

Initiatives funded include Sports and Arts Coordinators, our Awhi Fund (see below), professional development for staff, and strategic resourcing and positions within the school.

While it has only been in existence for a short time, the Wakatipu High School Foundation is already having a very real and positive impact on the school, its students and its future.

Awhi Fund

Awhi means to help or support, and our Awhi Fund is an important feature of Wakatipu High School. The fund is used for a wide range of things which families and students can struggle with financially, including uniform, school fees, camps and trips, health and medical expenses, educational assessments and even some extra and co-curricular activities.

Funding is in partnership with families and their ability to contribute, with the Awhi contribution also determined primarily by whether the application is for a compulsory expense (e.g. uniform), curriculum (e.g. fees), or extra or co-curricular.

Awhi is funded by the Community Trust of Southland, and more recently very generously by the Wakatipu High School Foundation. Our Guidance Counsellor is the key contact for further information and confidential applications.



Wakatipu
HIGH SCHOOL

Excellence

**Te kairangitanga/
Panekiretanga**

*Striving to achieve our
personal best,
in everything
we do*

Responsibility

Takohanga

*Choosing our responses, and
being accountable for our
decisions, actions and
consequences*

Resilience

Te manawanui me te ū

*Being able to cope with
and grow from challenge*

Diversity

Kanorau

*Valuing difference
and uniqueness*

Respect

Te whakaute

*Respecting self,
others, WHS and
the environment*

our values



Wakatipu
HIGH SCHOOL

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