



Dunstan High School

SEEK WISDOM AS GOLD
RAPUHIA TE MATAURANGA HEI TAONGA

PROSPECTUS

STRATEGIC PLAN

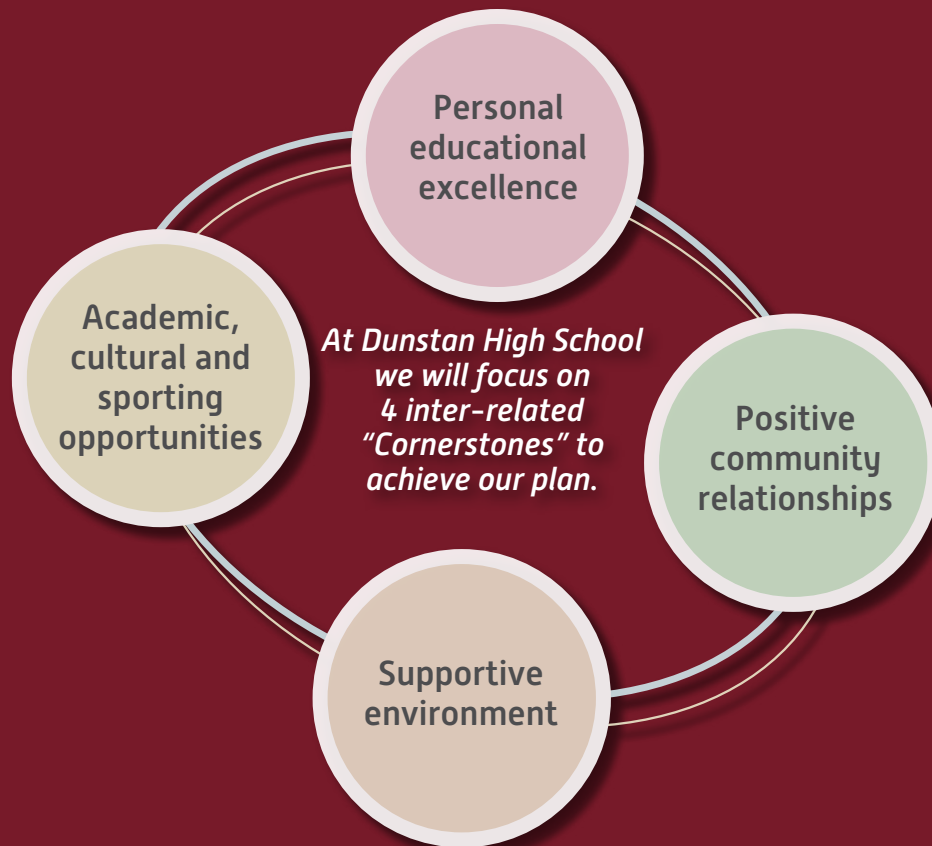
OUR CORE VALUES

RESPECT
WHAKAUTE

HONESTY
NGAKAU PONO

PERSONAL
EXCELLENCE
WHAKAMANA

KINDNESS
MANAAKITANGA



PERSONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Student centred, culturally responsive learning that develops independent, innovative lifelong learners.
- Students are engaged in a wide range of learning opportunities and pathways that reflect the aspirations of the students and their whānau.
- Keeping all whānau engaged in Dunstan High School, ambitious for student success and empowered to support student learning.

POSITIVE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

- Continuing to build even stronger links with whānau, local community groups, including businesses and our contributing schools, to support student learning and their future pathways.
- Celebrating student success in all its forms.
- Ensuring we are aware of and responsive to changes within not only our regional community *but* developments nationally and internationally.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- Build on our strong pastoral care framework with a focus on fostering an inclusive, safe and secure environment. Students feel a strong sense of belonging.
- Providing a high quality and stimulating learning environment to support high quality teaching and learning.

ACADEMIC, CULTURAL AND SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Providing an all-round educational experience within which all students achieve success.
- Continue to develop a wide range of cultural, sporting and academic opportunities that successfully contribute to preparing students for life beyond school.

The Vision: "For our young people to be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners"

Mission Statement: "To support students to seek their best in all aspects of life"



He mihi nui ki a koutou katoa Welcome to Dunstan High School

We are proud of the incredible range of opportunities provided for our students and of the calibre of young men and women these students become, in their time with us.

An education at Dunstan focuses on ensuring academic success for every student based on their potential, their aspirations and our high expectations for all at Dunstan High School. However, while it is academic qualifications that open doors to future success, it is strength of character, a sense of values and a love of learning that ensure our students are indeed, the best they can be.

At approximately 560 students, our size allows us to provide the range of available opportunities that compares and indeed, surpasses significantly larger schools. Our size also allows us to meet the needs of every single student, so that no one 'falls between the cracks'.

Our rich and diverse range of opportunities in the Arts, in Sport, Outdoor Education and beyond, ensures the well-rounded individual we strive to develop, is a reality. We are fortunate that our location in the thriving town of Alexandra, within the beautiful Central Otago region, allows us to make the most of the historical and geographic riches that this region is famous for.

We welcome your interest in our school and would love the opportunity to share with you, all the elements that make Dunstan High School such an outstanding educational organisation.

Reece Goldsmith
Principal

welcome nau mai



Learning and Academic Achievement

Learning and academic success are our core business. Dunstan High School has a proud record of academic success and our University Entrance statistics match the very best in the region.

Dunstan High School offers a rich curriculum which engages learners at their point of challenge. There is no 'one size fits all' approach and through putting the students learning needs at the centre of our decision making, we are able to tailor learning to maximise student progress and success.

In Year 9 and 10 we encourage students to develop a broad knowledge and skills base prior to entering the senior school and the national qualifications framework. While NCEA attainment is a priority, we are equally committed to ensuring our students leave Dunstan High School as enthusiastic, resilient and creative life-long learners, capable of excelling in the ever changing world that awaits.

To enhance learning at Dunstan High School, we have two Academic Directors who work with Deans and Tutor Group teachers to oversee the holistic learning of students, as opposed to achievement in specific subjects. This allows us to respond quickly and effectively to student learning needs. With a range of e-learning, University, vocational and learning support programmes in place, Dunstan High School expertly caters for the wide range of learning needs exhibited by our students.



Dunstan High School makes the most of state-of-the-art learning environments where rigorous learning is underpinned by evidence-based best teaching practice. Information Technology and, specifically, digital devices, have allowed us to enhance our delivery and with Google Classroom as our predominant digital learning platform, we are confident in our ability to provide learning opportunities that are second to none.

seek wisdom as gold
rapuhia te matauranga hei taonga





Outdoor Programmes

Mt Aspiring Lodge

Tititea Outdoor Education Centre is based in the East Matukituki Valley on the outskirts of Mt Aspiring National Park. The old Mt Aspiring homestead was offered to the school in 1969 when the Aspinall family moved to their new homestead at Glenfinnan. Since then the facility is administered by a trust consisting of school representatives and the Aspinall family.

The facility is arguably unique in New Zealand. Unlike many Outdoor Education Centres, Tititea has been built, maintained and redeveloped by the Aspinall family, staff, parents, the community and students. It has a personal touch to it that continues to draw commitment and visits from many ex-students. For most, a certain magic happens there that is indefinable and this magic draws people back to the stunning beauty, flourishing fauna and flora, birdlife and opportunities to explore the valleys and mountains in all weathers.

High Performance Class

The High Performance Class is a new initiative at Dunstan High School and is open to a group of selected Year 13 students who have a range of talents across sporting, cultural and academic fields.

Students have the opportunity to train and further develop their skills in their specific field of interest with a particular focus on the science behind elite performance.



The school has comprehensive senior Outdoor Education programmes at Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13. In addition, all Year 10 students take part in a 5 day camp based at the Centre which introduces them to adventure activities, teamwork and develops their confidence as a class. Leadership training for Year 12 students is also offered at the end of each school year.





Performing Arts

At Dunstan High School there are numerous opportunities to become involved in Music, Dance and Drama. We are fortunate to have a purpose built facility and specialist teaching staff who are dedicated to fostering excellence in all aspects of the Performing Arts.

In Music, the school has a strong choral tradition with a large number of students involved in our choirs. We also offer opportunities for involvement in jazz bands, rock bands and, through our links with the community, orchestral music. Specialist tuition is available in a wide range of instruments and there are regular opportunities to hone your performance skills in front of an audience.

We present a major musical production every two years where students can star on stage or choose to be involved through technical roles such as lighting, sound or set design.

In Drama, students have the opportunity to take part in smaller scale dramatic works and enter competitions such as the University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. A number of our students have also auditioned successfully for film and television roles shot in the local area.

Students can study both Music and Drama up to NCEA Level 3 and Scholarship level.

Other disciplines that give students the chance to develop their skills and initiatives include Kapa Haka, Debating and Public Speaking.





Sport

Sport is an integral part of a student's education at Dunstan High School and participation rates are high. With an extensive range of sports on offer, there is something for everyone.

Dedicated sports staff enrich the students' sporting opportunities with their expertise and enthusiasm, plus the committed support of volunteer coaches including parents and friends of the school.

Dunstan High School is recognised for its excellence and achievement at provincial and national level in a broad range of sports from traditional team sports (both winter and summer) to more recreation-based activities.





International

Dunstan High School welcomes students from a wide range of countries around the world. Our International Programme is designed to allow students to fully integrate into the school, providing a great opportunity to learn alongside New Zealanders in a wonderful rural environment.

Students have access to all the courses on offer at the school including our impressive Outdoor Education programme, and are supported by optional classes in "English for Speakers of Other Languages." In addition to our academic and practical based courses, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of cultural and sporting co-curricular activities.

A dedicated International team supports students from the time of enquiry throughout their stay in New Zealand. Students can choose to live in our boarding hostel or with carefully selected homestay families in our community.

Here at Dunstan High School, we value the enriching cultural exchange that International Students bring and our school extends a warm welcome to all.



Dunstan High School is a signatory to the New Zealand Code of Practice for International Students and is also a member of ODENZ.



Facilities

Dunstan is a modern High School set on nine hectares of spacious and attractive grounds. The school boasts a wide range of high quality buildings and facilities including a gymnasium and Physical Education/ Health complex incorporating classrooms and weight training facility.

A Performing Arts Centre with dedicated Drama and Music teaching spaces as well as practice rooms complements the Performing Arts programme.

A comprehensive modernisation programme of existing school buildings has also begun with the recent refurbishment of the Specialist Technology classrooms and the Special Needs and Supported Learning Unit.





CAPLES



HAAST



PYKE



REES

Student Support

The House system and Deans are the backbone of student support at Dunstan High School. The school is divided into four Houses: Caples, Haast, Pyke and Rees. There is a strong inter-house competition which gives the older students the opportunity to provide leadership and support to younger students. The houses are divided into smaller groups called Tutor Groups that include students from all levels creating a family environment.

Each House has two Deans who monitor both the academic and social progress of each student in their care.

A Guidance Counsellor is available to provide personal support for all learners as needed. There are strong relationships with support groups both in the community and government agencies. Parents too may work in partnership with Guidance staff if they have concerns about their children.

Dunstan High School has a Careers Education Programme aimed at ensuring all students leave school with the information and the skills to choose a tertiary course or find employment. A Careers Advisor provides individual consultation when students are making course and career decisions.



Boarding at Dunstan High School

"Our mission is to provide a safe, family-like living environment, where what we do supports learning, and the well-being of every child is at the centre of our actions."

Dunstan High School Hostel is a small, family-like boarding residence for boys and girls attending Dunstan High School. For over forty years our hostel has provided the opportunity for students from around our region and around the world to attend Dunstan. We support these young people to make the most of the many sporting, cultural and academic opportunities the school, the stunning Central Otago region and our supportive community provide.

Care & Supervision

Hostel staff provide a very high standard of care and supervision for students. Pastoral care staff are led by the Director of Boarding and the Boarding Manager. They are assisted by Boarding Supervisors and all live on-site and share the 24/7 care of hostel students. Student life is based on mutual respect and a key feature is the lack of traditional student hierarchy.





There are no dormitories at Dunstan High School Hostel. Students have their own rooms or twin rooms.

Junior Rooms

15 twin ensuite units. Each separate unit surrounds a central courtyard and has its own bedroom, bathroom and kitchenette.

Senior Rooms

Our 18 bed senior block provides for separate accommodation for senior students. They enjoy their own private room with shared bathroom facilities in each wing.

Common Areas

Junior common room, senior common room, student laundry, junior prep room, and dining room. Common rooms have Sky TV and wireless internet access.

Hostel staff care for the physical health, emotional and day-to-day needs of students. Extensive academic monitoring and support is also provided to students through our prep programme, and hostel staff and teachers liaise regularly.

Five and seven day boarding is available at the hostel. Planned extra-curricular activities and outings are run on the weekends to reinforce our family based ethos.





Dunstan High School

Enterprise Street, Alexandra,
Central Otago, New Zealand.

Tel: 03 448 8595

Fax: 03 448 8567

Email: office@dunstan.school.nz

www.dunstan.school.nz