



Otamatea High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Otamatea

International Student Prospectus



Otamatea High School

welcomes students from around the world. We can offer individualised programmes in a diverse range of academic, sporting and cultural areas.

Located in the heart of the Kaipara, just an hour and a half north of Auckland, and close to some of New Zealand's best beaches, we are a rural high school of between 600 to 700 students. Otamatea High school is a co-educational school for Year 7 - 13 students.

The friendly and approachable staff at Otamatea High School are ready to help you achieve your goals



School Vision

Our school vision, 'Ready for the World' - 'Kia mataara ki te Ao', aims at preparing our students for the challenges of a rapidly changing world of tomorrow. Our whakatauki 'He waka eke noa' represents the clear message that each member of our school community has a role to play in preparing our students for the future: students themselves, staff, family and whānau, and our community. It helps nurture a culture of support and builds resilience. As a culturally responsive, restorative school, we have worked hard to create a warm, welcoming culture at Otamatea High School. The tikanga of our school is best described within our whakatauki where we have used the 'WAKA' to describe the values upon which we stand as a school:

W - Whanaungatanga: Respectful relationships, caring about each other as if we are whānau.

A - Ako: Reciprocal learning. We are all learning, in and out of the classroom, and we can all teach something to others.

K - Kaitiakitanga: Guardianship of our place, our environment and ourselves (wellbeing)

A - Aroha: 'Aro' meaning to focus and 'ha' meaning a breath or life force. Are you focussing the best of yourself towards those around you? Aroha also symbolises the empathy and care.

Otamatea High School Dates and International Study Fees

2026 Dates

TERM 1	
Wed 28 Jan	FIRST DAY TERM 1 Year 13 and all new students
Thurs 29 Jan	Whole School
Fri 6 Feb	Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
TBC	Swimming Sports
TBC	School Athletics
Mon 23rd Feb	ID / Class Photos
TBC	Catch Up Day ID Photos
Fri 3 Apr	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Mon 6 Apr	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Tues 7 Apr	Easter Tuesday (Public Holiday)
Thurs 2nd Apr	LAST DAY OF TERM 1

TERM 2	
Mon 20 Apr	FIRST DAY TERM 2
1 st Jun	King's Birthday (Public Holiday)
Fri 10 th July	Matariki (Public Holiday)
Fri 3 July	LAST DAY TERM 2
TERM 3	
Mon 20 July	FIRST DAY TERM 3
Fri 25 Sept	LAST DAY TERM 3
TERM 4	
Mon 12 Oct	FIRST DAY TERM 4
Mon 26 Oct	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Wed 10 Dec	LAST DAY TERM 4 Junior Prize Giving

2026 Fees

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

TUITION	FEE (NZD)
Full Year (4 terms)	\$16000
3 Terms	\$12000
2 Terms	\$9000
1 Term	\$4,500
ADMINISTRATION	FEE (NZD)
Full Year (4 Terms)	\$1000
3 Terms	\$100
2 Terms	\$600
Less than 2 Terms	\$600

HOMESTAY	FEE (NZD)
Homestay Placement Fee	\$350
Homestay Per Week	\$350
AIRPORT	FEE (NZD)
Airport Pickup	\$200 one way
CONTINGENCY FUND	FEE (NZD)
Students can use this fund to pay for school trips, camps, uniforms, and in school or extra-curricular sports such as hockey, soccer. Any money remaining in the students' account will be refunded back to the parents at the end of the course	\$1000

Extra costs not covered are:

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

Refund Policy

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

Fees Protection Policy

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

The New Zealand Curriculum

New Zealand has one of the best education systems in the world. Class sizes are smaller, and the Western style of learning encourages independent thinking and creativity. Our system follows the UK model, with 13 years of primary and secondary schooling.

At Otamatea High School we host children from the beginning of their Secondary Schooling in year 9, through until Year 13 when most children are 18 years old.

Our Curriculum

Otamatea High School offers students a broad, balanced curriculum with programmes covering all of the eight learning areas of the New Zealand Curriculum: English, Mathematics and Statistics, The Arts, Science, Health and Physical Education, Social Sciences, Technology and Learning Languages.

Years 7 - 8

In Years 7 and 8 Otamatea High School students form our junior syndicate, led by our Syndicate Head Amy Dempsey. These students cover the full curriculum, with a particular focus on literacy and numeracy. As a high school, we are able to offer a full range of technology subjects to these students, including food, digital technology and hard materials technology. These students also spend two hours per week learning science in our well-equipped science labs. All students also learn Te Reo Maori and either Spanish or French.

Years 9 - 10

In years 9 and 10 students continue to cover the full curriculum, but they get to choose their option subjects. These include the full range of technology subjects (digital, engineering, graphics, food, hard materials), art, business studies, drama, magazine design, music, Spanish and Te Reo Maori.

Senior Students

Senior students study towards NCEA qualifications. Year 11s take English, mathematics and science plus three option subjects. Year 12s take six option subjects and Year 13s select five or six option subjects. We offer over 60 different senior courses across NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 as well as providing distance learning opportunities to students through the correspondence school. Senior students can also complete courses outside school, gain valuable work experience and work towards national qualifications at the same time. Through our Self-Directed Pathways programme senior students also have the option of working independently on an area of their choice while simultaneously gaining work experience through the

Gateway programme.

We have three academies at school. The primary industries academy combines classroom study with on-the-job learning and works alongside NCEA, allowing students to work towards a National Certificate in Agriculture or Horticulture. The hospitality academy also combines classroom study with on-the-job learning, with these students able to work towards a National Certificate in Hospitality. The third academy is our construction/engineering academy, where students can gain industry-based qualifications to aid them in their chosen path.

Tertiary Pathways

If students wish to pathway to a university in New Zealand, we have many fine institutions to choose from. Our nearest universities are:

[The University of Auckland](#)

[Auckland University of Technology](#)

Institutes of Technology

Students looking for shorter courses or more practical pathways often pathway to an institute of technology, such as [Unitech](#).

For more options, visit the [Education New Zealand website](#).



Extra-Curricular Activities

Kapa Haka (Maori Culture and Dance Club), Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award, Netball, Hockey, Soccer, Rugby, Squash, Clay Bird Shooting, Rock quest, Olla Podriga (talent quest), Wearable Arts.

YEAR 10		NCEA LEVEL ONE		NCEA LEVEL TWO		NCEA LEVEL THREE
English	☒	English	☒	English - Academic	☒	English - Academic
			☒	English - General	☒	English - General
Mathematics	☒	Mathematics	☒	Mathematics - Algebra & Calculus	☒	Mathematics with Calculus
			☒	Mathematics - Statistics	☒	Mathematics - Statistics & Probability
			☒	Mathematics - General	☒	Mathematics - General
Science	☒	Science - Essential	☒	Physics	☒	Physics
	☒	Science - General	☒	Chemistry	☒	Chemistry
			☒	Biology	☒	Biology
Social Studies	☒	Geography	☒	Geography	☒	Geography
			☒	Tourism	☒	Tourism
	☒	History	☒	History	☒	History
Physical Education & Health	☒	Physical Education	☒	Physical Education	☒	Physical Education
			☒	Sports Leadership	☒	Sports Leadership
	☒	Health	☒	Health	☒	Health
Y10 Options: Students do TWO for a year						
Hard Materials Technology	☒	Building and Construction	☒	Building and Construction	☒	Building and Construction
	☒	Engineering	☒	Engineering	☒	Engineering
Commerce	☒	Commerce	☒	Business Economics	☒	Business Economics
Design & Visual Communications	☒	Design & Visual Communications	☒	Design & Visual Communications	☒	Design & Visual Communications
Digital Technology	☒	Digital Technology	☒	Digital Technology		
Drama	☒	Drama	☒	Drama	☒	Drama
Food Technology	☒	Hospitality	☒	Hospitality Academy	☒	Hospitality Academy
Green to Gold	☒	Primary Industries Trade Academy	☒	Primary Industries Trade Academy		
Magazine Design			☒	Media Studies	☒	Media Studies
Music	☒	Music	☒	Music	☒	Music
Spanish	☒	Spanish				
Te Reo Māori	☒	Te Reo Māori	☒	Te Reo Māori	☒	Te Reo Māori
Visual Art	☒	Visual Art	☒	Visual Art - Painting	☒	Visual Art - Painting
			☒	Visual Art - Photography	☒	Visual Art – Photography
			☒	Art Design		

The Education Code of Practice

When students from other countries come to study in New Zealand, it is important that those students are well informed, safe and properly cared for. New Zealand educational providers have an important responsibility for International Students' welfare. The Code of Practice is a document providing a framework for service delivery by educational providers and their agents to International Students. The Code sets out the minimum standards of advice and care that are expected of educational providers with respect to International Students. The Code applies to pastoral care and provision of information only, and not to academic standards.

The Code applies to all education providers in New Zealand with international students enrolled. The Code is mandatory to these providers and must be signed by them. The Code is available online from [NZQA](#). If students are unable to resolve a complaint with their provider, NZQA has a Disputes Resolution Scheme to help students resolve their concerns. See further detail in the next section.

Complaints and Concerns

Students and parents may experience problems and difficulties in adjusting to life in New Zealand.

<https://otamatea.schooldocs.co.nz/ConcernsandComplaintsProcess.pdf>

If you think the school has breached the Code, or you are not happy with the way we have resolved your concerns, you can make a complaint to NZQA. For more information, see [HERE](#).

Study Complaints can help school international students to resolve financial and contractual disputes with their education provider. Please view their website for more information and/or to make a complaint: [Study Complaints](#).

ERO Report

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

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

School Website

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

Support Services for International Students:

The school provides a range of support services to help you succeed in your studies and adjust to life in New Zealand. Support services are detailed below:

Principal

Todd Malcolm

todd.malcolm@otamatea.school.nz

Lead Guidance Counsellor

Chris Byars

chris.byars@otamatea.school.nz

Year 7 Dean – Whatua Leader
Junior Syndicate

Alysha Brown

alysha.brown@otamatea.school.nz

Year 8 Dean – Ngapuhi Leader
Junior Syndicate

Alex Linnell

alex.linnell@otamatea.school.nz

Year 9 Dean/Music

Adam Blake

adam.blake@otamatea.school.nz

Year 10 Dean – Maniapoto Leader
Social Sciences

Robyn Baker

robyn.baker@otamatea.school.nz

Year 11 Dean/Social Sciences

Tony Baker

tony.baker@otamatea.school.nz

Year 12 & 13 Dean – Arawa Leader
Science

Jess Baker

jessica.baker@otamatea.school.nz

Languages / ESOL

Lourdes Moreno

lourdes.moreno@otamatea.school.nz

International Student Director

Name TBC

Email: TBC

Accommodation Options

If enrolling with Otamatea High School, your accommodation options are as follows:

Living with Parents

If parents living with their children may obtain help finding rental accommodation through real estate agents:

The Professionals: <https://www.professionals.co.nz/offices/northland/maungaturoto>

Ray White: <https://rwmangawhai.co.nz/>

For short term accommodation, check out - [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) or [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)

Designated Caregivers

Designated caregivers must be either be a relative of the student or close friend of the student's family. If the student intends on living with a Designated Caregiver, the caregiver and parents must sign the Designated Caregiver Agreement. This may be found on our website or will be provided on request from our school office as part of the enrolment forms.

Homestay

Otamatea High School places international students with warm and welcoming families who have been carefully vetted and safety checked. If you wish to live with a homestay family, please complete the Accommodation Agreement section of the enrolment forms, available on our website, or on request from the school office.

Cost of Living in New Zealand

For an understanding of the cost of living, please refer to naumainz.studywithnewzealand.govt.nz

Transport Information

For information on public transport in Auckland, please see the website of [Auckland Transport](https://www.aucklandtransport.co.nz)

Facilities Information

We have excellent classroom facilities

- Gym, Turf, 2 full size fields
- Science labs
- Music rooms
- School vans
- Access to motorcross, squash and equestrian facilities
- Beautiful surf beaches close by

International Academic

- A broad range of curriculum choices
- Specialist subjects in the senior school
- Gateway subjects for those hands on students
- Pathways programmes: select a personalized programme that meets your career choices and work independently
- Join one of our academies: Hospitality, Primary Industries or Construction
- NCEA and University Entrance
- Small specialist ESOL support classes offering individual help
- Education plus programme new for 2018: four days in school and one day a week at an activity of your choice - golf, surfing, equestrian (riding and stable management)
- International team available 24 hours a day 7 days a Week
- Participation opportunities in Dairying, Beef, Sheep, Organic Farming, Poultry, and Horticulture
- Homestays to suit: Live with a Kiwi family on a farm; on the coast or in a small town.





Contact Us

International team

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New Zealand

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EMAIL: ohs@otamatea.school.nz

School Office Hours:

8.00am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday

www.otamatea.school.nz

<https://www.facebook.com/otamateahighschool/>

