



Wellington High School

Winner of the New Zealand education exporter of the year award 2004

Wellington High is a Decile 9, co-educational, non-uniform, state secondary school with a large adult community education programme. It serves a cross-section of metropolitan Wellington and an increasing number of young people from a wider area.

The school has an enrolment scheme with a capped the roll of 1050. The school continues to attract students from other city schools in fact the school roll changes by between 35-45% every year. There are up to 60 international fee paying students.

The ethnic make up of the student population is predominately European with 18% Maori. A wide range of other ethnicities provide diversity and richness to the school.

The students are generally intelligent, creative and challenging. The school has student management systems that promote individual responsibility and self-management. Student teacher relationships are mutually respectful and discipline is firm, friendly and fair. The school Tikanga, developed by staff and students, gives guidelines about respect, contributing to the learning atmosphere and Climate of cooperation. The students feel safe. Equity is upheld through a no bullying stance, language awareness, co-operative learning strategies and positive role models in text and by staff.

Students are managed by year level Deans who move through the school with them. Roopuu teachers monitor their learning needs and attendance. Counselling staff provide a comprehensive service for students and families. Students are empowered to make their views felt and they see themselves as equal participants in their learning community. The ethos and curriculum of the school is designed to make them socially literate. There are many opportunities for them to exercise leadership through student orchestrated activities: ie the Shakespeare Society and Stage Challenge, peer programmes and formal activities i.e. BoT. Students participate and excel in a wide range of sports.

The school has a proud tradition of educational innovation for over 100 years. It develops innovative programmes to meet the changing needs of its students and community. It provides a broad balanced curriculum at all levels and provides multi level study and multiple pathways for students. The school prepares students for the National Certificate in Educational Achievement and university. The school seeks to achieve excellence in core subjects and has an established reputation in visual and performing arts supported by creative technologies.

Inclusive education is embedded in the school philosophy and professional development is focused to achieve school wide inclusive education. These ideas have led to the development of a significant change in approach to junior schooling with the beginning of Tukutahi – Connect to learn - this year. Core teachers in Yr 9 planning together to deliver an integrated, connected, timetable freed programme. Check out this link: http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/digital_stories/school_stories/wellington_high_school_tukutahi In addition reporting in the junior school is through student, teacher and parent meetings where personalised learning objectives (PLOs) are discussed. These developments fit well with the key competencies of the new curriculum. All Yr 9s go to our outdoor education centre in French Pass for a week in Term 1.

The school leads an ICT PD cluster and is developing moodle as its OLE. E portfolios (mahara) and electronic reporting will be in wide use in 2009. Blogging and C-mapping are being increasingly used tools of engagement.

Cultural diversity is valued and grounded in a strong bi-cultural foundation. The school has a strong group based around a whare manaaki – Taraika and Hineakau - and is developing a strong partnership with its Maori community. The school also has a Somali and a Chinese Counsellor with other people identified to act as interpreters for all students who may require language help.

Teaching staff are encouraged to use modern learning technologies and a range of teaching strategies. The performance management system is developmentally focused. The School encourages staff development through the Head of Faculty reports, annual staff travel scholarships and removal of the ground supervision responsibility. The school management structure is based on the seven essential learning areas with well-developed curriculum delivery and assessment through the Heads of Faculty.

A culture of review is established and the Principal and Heads of Faculty examine performance every year through surveys of students, caregivers and teachers and annual reports. The strategic plan has been reviewed every three years.

Caregivers report positively about most activities in the school. 95% reported they are happy with the education their students were getting at WHS. Students reported very positively about their courses but 18% would like to see more practical work and group and individual work.

Staff also report positively about the tone and direction of the school.

As a result of ongoing review the school is constantly adapting its programmes and management. Some recent developments have been:

- introducing a graduating junior Certificate in Learning skills - a two year programme for Yrs 9 & 10 which has seen an improvement in behaviour and achievement. 93% 2007 juniors graduated to NCEA courses.
- MIDYS tests providing an earlier identification of Yr 9 students' skills and appropriate adaptation of work for those needing it
- A Maori achievement committee actively working with Maori students
- an in-class support system focused on raising the achievement of all students but particularly Maori students.
- encouraging senior students to enter scholarship and subject competitions
- improved access to careers advice and information and opportunities for work experience through Gateway and next year Modern Apprenticeships
- staff training for effective teaching of mixed ability classes through ATOL and the numeracy programme
- Staff ICT Pd with infrastructure change

Achievement is viewed widely at High. Our mission is for everyone to achieve a personal best. The Board has a belief that creating socially literate students able to move on confidently is a key achievement. Most of our students do that. Many students come here for the range of courses and opportunities beyond the narrow canon of university entrance subjects. In 2007 NCEA examinations achievement ranked us just below the national average in most areas.

Some achievements beyond NCEA

Finalist (one of four) in L&T magazine Top High School of the World 2007

Member New Zealand Secondary Schools' Infomatrix Olympiad team to Zagreb

Winner College Sport Wellington Sportsman of the Year

Runner up world Youth Laser yachting championship (Canada)

Winner NZSS Sheilah Winn Shakespeare festival; best understanding of text, Wellington city competition best student directed performance

Winner best message in Wellington Stage Challenge

Winner Wellington SS Rockquest band competition

Winner Wellington Secondary Schools' Culinary challenge

Winner Best Vocalist Manawatu secondary schools' Jazz Festival

Winner Best secondary jazz band at Manawatu Jazz Festival

Winner Best novice guitarist at Manawatu Jazz Festival

Winner bronze NZ secondary schools' culinary challenge

Winner 4 gold medals NZ women's 1m & 3m diving championships

Winner New Zealand Future Problem solvers' dramatic presentation

Winner Sunday Star Times Secondary Schools' Short Story writing competition

Three pieces in Redraft the showcase of senior secondary school writing

Two winners in the *Hello Someday* sustainability film competition for under 20 year olds, only school with two winning teams

CSW Underwater Hockey player of the year,

Winner of a place on the Young Shakespeare Production Globe trip

Highly commended in the NZSSS poetry writing competition

Winner regional Kapa Haka and a place at this year's nationals

Gold Duke of Edinburgh award

Winner NZ Secondary Schools' Hamburger making competition

Winner Wellington Region senior girls' badminton

Winner Wellington region Junior girls' badminton singles title

Members New Zealand U21 Basketball, Underwater hockey & Bowls teams

Two top 2% achievers in the Australian mathematics competition

Student trips: Europe, Japan, Nepal, India and many parts of New Zealand