



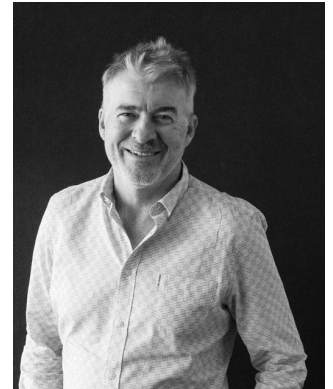
Wellington High School
Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

Whānau Guide
2021

Nau Mai, Haere Mai ki Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

Welcome to Wellington High School!

For more than 130 years Wellington High School has been providing the best education possible for many thousands of young New Zealanders. Throughout this time we have forged our reputation with an educationally progressive curriculum and attitude. From the very first director of the school in 1886, Arthur Dewhurst Riley, who conceived the school as a "continually expanding, ever changing institution" the school has always listened to the needs of the community and responded accordingly, providing an effective social learning environment which embraces individuality and allows students to navigate their own pathway to success.



Our students, staff and community have crystallised our priorities based around the Māori word for challenge - **WERO**. Each letter of WERO stands for a key value/expectation that we have of members of our community. **W** stands for **Whānau** and represents our individual roles in the social arrangement of small groups and more complex communities. It also represents the idea that we are a community and we support each other. **E** stands for **Excellence** and represents our drive to be the very best we can be in everything we do. **R** is for **Respect** and challenges and informs the nature of relationships and our interaction with others and with the environment. **O** stands for **Ora** and represents the physical and emotional wellbeing we seek to achieve, be it individually, in our actions supporting other people or collectively as a community that shares and cares. If you enrol your student at Wellington High School, you're signing up for these values and we commit to building and valuing a respectful relationship with you and your young person based on our high expectations around learning and engagement.

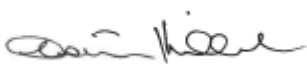
Wellington High has always stood for equity and excellence. We are frequently consulted by the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office in areas such as bullying, gender diversity, restorative practices, and sex education because we are recognised for our regional and national leadership in these areas. In 2018 we made the decision to include Te Ao Māori in our year 9 curriculum as well as provide the opportunity to learn another language as this is one way that we can open up ourselves to new learnings and build greater cultural awareness and understanding.

One of my predecessors, Turoa Royal, who was Principal of Wellington High School from 1975 to 1986, quite eloquently summed up what we are aiming to achieve at High.

"Firstly, if nothing else, pupils should leave the school with a sense of self-worth, a sense of self-esteem, and a sense of high expectations that life has beauty, and of truth. [Ralph Waldo] Emerson's truism is worth quoting: 'Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we will find it not.' Secondly, whatever we teach, pupils should have the ability and skills to relate to others in a cordial, friendly and compassionate relationship - 'Ko te mea hui - ko te aroha' - the most important thing is love and compassion. Thirdly, students should have the widest and happiest experiences in schools so that on leaving, learning is seen as a continuing and enjoyable experience. Fourthly, [students should] be able to analyse problems, no matter how complex, so that if career tracks are changing more frequently, they are able to make wise choices. Fifthly, students should, through school practices be concerned for people and for mother earth. Mother earth is our past and our future."

At Wellington High School we are using our rich tradition to shape our present and our future. We believe connection is the key and your student will be warmly welcomed to a school where they will be respected as unique individuals. We will provide a range of academic, sporting, cultural and leadership activities to build their connection to our place. Further, we will provide an inclusive, co-educational environment that embraces diversity and promotes excellent achievement and mutual respect.

Mauri ora!



Dominic Killalea
Principal

Orientation

Our goal is that students new to Wellington High School, whatever the year level of entry, quickly adjust to our special character and ethos, and that they soon feel that they are valued members of our school community. To ensure this happens we have a Wellington High School citizenship programme that takes place in the first few weeks of a new student's time with us.

New students at year 9 spend the first two days of the start of the year at school learning their way around and building relationships with their Herengatahi teachers and year 13 peer support leaders. This is before the rest of the school is on site. New students at years 10 to 13 spend a day of orientation getting familiar with the systems and surroundings. Students who arrive during the year are given a 'buddy' student and spend some time early in their stay with regular check-ins with their year level Dean.

Students at all years will complete an orientation booklet in 3 sections:

- Tell us about you
- Find out about us
- Reflection

We feel it is important to acknowledge the arrival and future contributions of all of our new students and for them to understand as much as possible about the unique character of their new learning environment. With full understanding from both parties, a successful partnership will ensue.

Academic Programmes

Wellington High School students follow the New Zealand Curriculum. Students in Years 9 and 10 need to acquire knowledge and understanding in the eight essential learning areas, while in Years 11, 12, and 13 they need to acquire knowledge and understanding across a range of learning areas so as to preserve a balanced education while allowing a degree of specialisation.

Learning is connected through shared concepts and themes with a strong commitment to building student learning competencies and dispositions. An important aspect of learning is sharing with whānau. All students are involved in student-parent-teacher learning conversations that are focused on cultivating and strengthening good learning habits.

In the junior years, our programmes are shaped by the SOLO taxonomy, while at a senior level, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) becomes a focus. In addition, we provide opportunities outside of traditional assessment to enrich student experiences. Where appropriate, we accelerate students from a junior level to access senior learning and we provide opportunities for remediation. The school provides a technology rich environment that makes full and effective use of the latest teaching and learning strategies. At Wellington High School we are committed to tailoring individual students' courses to meet their needs and progress at their own rate.



The school expects students at Wellington High to develop and support, through their actions: a positive attitude to learning; an understanding that learning extends beyond the classroom; an active assessment of their own learning, their contribution to the learning process, the courses of study that they take part in, and the school's learning environment in general.

Student Support

Each student is part of an extensive and responsive guidance network that is responsible for individual wellbeing. This network provides assurance that students are safe and supported at school.

Key people include:

- **Rōpū teachers** who are the students' primary contact point
- **Year Level Deans** support the rōpū teacher and maintain an overview of the year level
- **Guidance Counsellors** provide additional personal support for students and their families
- **Peer Support** and peer tutoring provides student to student support and helps to develop connections between year levels

The Learning Services Faculty ensures all students' **learning** needs are met. The support is targeted to the needs of the individual and support may include:

- **Special Access Conditions (SAC)** so that students may have fair access to assessment for national qualifications
- **Reading and Literacy Support** for students who may need additional support to develop age appropriate levels of literacy. Similar programmes support the development of numeracy skills,
- **Social Skills and learning skills support** to assist students to work in larger groups or whole class environments,
- **English language** programmes for international students and students who are new to New Zealand,
- **Extension programmes** that enrich and extend the learning opportunities for able students.

Restorative Practice

Wellington High School works on the basis of mutual respect and shared responsibility. When things do not go as they should the school will always attempt to resolve the situation using the best principles of Restorative Practice.

Restorative Practice is about holding people accountable for their actions - making them accept responsibility - but supporting them in learning what they have done to others and about helping people to find a way forward and to behave differently next time.

Our philosophy is one of inclusion and relationship building and restorative practices are built around these values.

Our Aims are:

- to educate students towards self-directed right behaviour,
- to promote, nurture and protect healthy relationships among members of the community, and
- to enable students to be accountable for the real consequences of any wrongdoing.

We do this by:

- having high expectations and insisting upon high standards of behaviour, and
- providing high levels of support and care for individuals.

A restorative approach

- encourages students to appreciate the consequences of their actions for others,
- enables students to make amends where their actions have harmed others,
- requires students to be accountable for their actions, and
- encourages respect for all concerned.

Opportunities to Participate

Wellington High School offers a full range of opportunities for young people to connect with the school through participation in enriching activities outside of their classroom lessons.

Sport in the school is managed by the Sports Coordinator who organises and encourages all students to participate in sport. There are a wide range of sporting opportunities both in traditional sport codes and emerging codes. The school encourages parent and community involvement in these activities.

Over 60% of students at the school are regularly involved in competitive sport, and / or cultural activities, while many others take part in a range of outdoor activities offered by the school including tramping, skiing, and mountain biking.



The range of sports offered depends on student interest but includes:

Fencing
Hockey
Tennis
Rugby
Water Polo
Target Shooting
Floorball
Skateboarding

Squash
Basketball
Cricket
Football
Dragon Boating
Lawn Bowls
Parkour
Frisbee

Softball
Netball
Table tennis
Volleyball
Ultimate frisbee
Athletics
Tramping
Unicycling

Badminton
Futsal
Touch
Cross Country
Weightlifting
Underwater Hockey
Rock Climbing

The school also supports regular trips to overseas destinations including exchanges with schools in China, Japan and Argentina. Cultural opportunities abound and there is something to interest everyone. Opportunities are again based on student interest but include:

Shakespeare Society
Computer Club
Amnesty International
Chess

Debating
Kapa Haka
Duke of Edinburgh
Student Radio

Drama
Pasifika Group
Peer Support
Student Librarians

Bands/String Group
Music Tuition
Feminist Club
UltraViolet (LGBTQI+)



Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC)

Wellington High School sits in the centre of an exciting landscape for learning. We enjoy proximity to amazing natural and cultural resources and we believe that learning should not be confined to classrooms. Getting out into the world puts learning into a different, richer context and we want to encourage teachers and students to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by our proximity.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our students while engaging in low risk learning activities outside the classroom. This means activities that are close to school and that happen during the school day. Examples of this kind of activity are walking down to Te Papa to do a workshop or see an exhibition, or going to the New Zealand Film Archive for a movie viewing.

Teachers take responsibility for active supervision and for managing the slight risks that are involved, such as traffic safety and sensible behaviour. We have emergency procedures in place in case of earthquake or other natural disasters striking while the group is offsite.

It's really important, for this and many other reasons, to ensure that you keep us up to date about any health issues or other things that might impact on your student's learning or ability to function during the school day.

If there is any reason that your student should not participate in these **low risk** learning activities outside of the classroom that happen close to our school and within the school day please make contact with your student's rōpū teacher as soon as possible.

We will **always** seek your permission by letter/email for trips that involve higher levels of risk than those outlined above. Examples of this are water based activities, multi day trips or trips that will take your student out of our immediate environment.



Enrolment Process for 2021

27 July 2020	Closing date for applications for Year 9 out-of-zone placements at WHS in 2021.
7 August 2020	Ballot for out-of-zone placements in Year 9 in 2021 held at Tawa College.
10-14 August 2020	In zone enrolment interviews for Year 9 2021.
12 August 2020	Parents to be notified of the outcome of the out-of-zone ballot by this date.
28 August 2020	Acceptance of place offered via the out-of-zone ballot to be received by this date.
15 October 2020	Closing date for applications for out-of-zone Year 10 to 13 placements in 2021.
2 November 2020	Ballot held for out-of-zone placements in Years 10 to 13 in 2021.
5 November 2020	Parents to be notified of outcome of Year 10-13 out-of-zone ballot by this date.
23-27 November 2020	Interviews for Year 10-13 2021 enrolments

Further information about enrolling at Wellington High School, including our online enrolment form can be found on our website: www.whs.school.nz/enrolment



Wellington High School - Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

PO Box 4035

Wellington 6140

New Zealand

www.whs.school.nz

admin@whs.school.nz

Phone: 04 385 8911